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COMMENTS ON 'MYSTERIOUS SHOOTINGS' OF CRIMINALS

DPR/MPR Chairman Agrees

Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 21 Jul 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Jakarta, 21 July—Amirmachmud, chairman of the MPR/DPR [People's Consultative Assembly/Parliament], expressed his personal approval of "mysterious" shootings in suppressing criminal activity. In order to provide a feeling of security to the 150 million people of Indonesia, he had no objection if hundreds of criminals must be sacrificed.

Chairman Amirmachmud made this statement at the Bina Graha offices on Thursday [21 July] after meeting with President Soeharto on a number of matters related to DPR activity. Accompanying him was Wang Suwandi, secretary general of the DPR/MPR.

Amirmachmud said that during his meeting with the chief of state he had presented to him the conclusions of the meeting of DPR leaders who reviewed the security situation within the country.

Very Successful

He said that the DPR regards the security efforts undertaken by the government as very successful. This is reflected in the sharp decline in crime statistics and the re-emergence of a feeling of security at all levels of society.

He went on to say that a number of community groups (intellectuals, businessmen, etc) had expressed their thanks and support for government action to handle crime. According to Amirmachmud, the willingness of the people to stand up against criminals is beginning to be apparent once again. Government efforts have caused extraordinary confusion in the ranks of illegal, criminal organizations and have created feelings of fear among criminals toward government security organizations and the people as a whole.

The DPR leadership expressed its appreciation for government efforts to protect the people against crime.

In answer to a question Amirmachmud said that in connection with successful efforts to bring the crime statistics down he thought that this would also have an influence

on encouraging political stability within the country. He said that his experience as a military regional commander and as minister of home affairs had shown him that the existence of very sadistic, criminal activity smelled like efforts by the PKI [Communist Party of Indonesia] to make a "come back."

Questioned about the "mysterious shootings," Amirmachmud suggested that people should not look at this matter only from the point of view of the shootings but also from other points of view.

According to Amirmachmud, the "mysterious shootings" are a consequence of the existence of very sadistic crime.

Statement Termed 'Personal Opinion'

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 23 Jul 83 pp 1, 9

[Text] Jakarta, KOMPAS--Dr Sarwono Kusumaatmadja, secretary of the Functional Development Faction of Parliament, has declared that the statement made by H Amirmachmud, chairman of the MPR/DPR [People's Consultative Assembly/Parliament], in which he recently expressed his agreement with the "mysterious shootings," was the expression of a personal opinion.

Dr Sarwono made this statement to reporters on Friday [22 July] at the parliament building. Last Thursday [21 July], after he was received by the chief of state, H Amirmachmud expressed his personal approval of the "mysterious shootings" of criminals which have occurred frequently in the recent past (KOMPAS, 22 July).

According to Sarwono, the term "personal opinion" is very important, because not all statements made by an MPR/DPR leader can be called the views of the MPR/DPR as a whole. He recalled that this is covered in the administrative regulations of the MPR/DPR.

He added that his view of the matter was intended exclusively to place the matter in its true perspective, so that there would be no misunderstandings. The expression of a statement in the name of the MPR or DPR usually is made after a previous, plenary session of the council concerned has been held.

The Question

According to Sarwono, in a matter of upholding the law, the question that must be asked is how to handle it. If the manner of handling the question is considered unsatisfactory, this is the question which must be considered.

In handling such a question a legislative body should not support steps which are not based on legal procedures.

He recalled that the legislative councils' function as lawmaking institutions is in addition to their function of checking on the way the government implements the law.

If feelings in the community are affected by criminal actions, the courts should carefully handle such matters. In such cases the courts must have the courage to hand down sentences providing the heaviest penalties authorized by law. The same is true

if a criminal act is punishable by death. In such a case the heaviest penalty should be approved. The secretary of the Functional Development Faction said: "We should not subsequently support actions which take place outside the processes of law."

Sarwono did not object to having corrupt elements given the heaviest punishment provided by law. It is not only criminals who disturb the community who should be sentenced to the heaviest punishments.

The secretary of the Development Unity Faction also expressed his concern that the sentences handed down in connection with violations of the narcotics laws have been relatively light, compared to the application of similar laws in neighboring countries like Singapore.

He recalled that the fact that Indonesia is based on the philosophy of the Pancasila [Five Principles of the Nation] does not mean that it does not approve increasing the severity of sentences. Sarwono said: "It must be remembered that those who act improperly must be given heavy sentences."

Deaths Not 'Essential Question'

Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 23 Jul 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Jakarta, 23 July--Yoga Sugama, chief of the State Intelligence Coordinating Body (BAKIN), has stated that if the majority of the Indonesian people need a period of calm so that an equal distribution of income can be achieved, the general welfare can be advanced, opportunities to work can be provided, and provincial development can be realized, in addition to handling other, major issues, why must we make an issue of criminals who die under mysterious circumstances or treat this as an essential question?

This was stated by Yoga Sugama at the Bina Graha offices on Saturday morning [23 July] after reporting to President Soeharto on the security situation which, according to the chief of BAKIN, is no different from the description provided by Surono, the coordinating minister for political affairs.

According to Yoga, if we want to look around for problems, then we will find them everywhere. However, what is important now, if we feel and accept the obligation to give first priority to the broader interests of the Indonesian people, is that we should help to improve the situation so that security and order will be protected and our union and unity will be safeguarded.

He went on to say that the attention of all of us, both in the government and among the Indonesian people, should be directed to the bigger and more serious questions, such as how to achieve the unity and union we need, in order to provide support for all of the plans of the government to ensure the welfare of the people.

The government's plan is to give priority to matters which really add to our capacities and capabilities, as declared by our state leader at the time he was inaugurated. He added that it will be difficult for us to achieve the target of equality in welfare if our efforts are distracted by matters which turn the government's attention away from that goal. This would force the government to split its attention among a number of goals.

One Matter

It would be better if the government's attention were directed toward one matter only, even if we admit that this is a very difficult thing to do and is full of challenges. That is, our efforts should be directed toward making a reality of the development program and achieving equal incomes and levels of welfare for all. This is what we must seek to do, instead of spreading our efforts out among other problems.

The chief of BAKIN thinks that there has been no increase in the level of crime recently. This opinion, he says, is supported by a number of reports from security agencies well as what he has seen and felt. Furthermore, if we consider the atmosphere before, during, and since Lebaran [Muslim fasting month], he added, we can conclude that we have never gone through as quiet, as peaceful, and as secure a Lebaran period as this one.

What we do see now is a decline in crime, although he admitted that there are certain people who make trouble about "this or that" question. In protecting ourselves against such people Yoga stated that as an official he could only say that it would be best if we looked at the present results. He said: "Now people traveling around at night feel more secure."

Regarding minor crimes such as purse snatchings, the chief of BAKIN said that these occur throughout the world. However, he added, it is clear that a more drastic view is taken of such matters, and there has been a decline in crimes which go beyond the limits of acceptable human behavior.

Regarding the letters which come from Amnesty International, he said we don't have to make these into a big issue. They are just a bunch of trouble makers [tukang ganggu].

Yoga Sugama asked: "Is it really true that, compared to the whole world, it is only in Indonesia that people are killed, indeed that criminals are killed?"

He also said that if the Amnesty International letter had come from the Netherlands, even there, for example in Amsterdam, there are people killed every day. Yoga Sugama repeated: "Nobody makes a fuss about that. Why do they make a fuss when criminals are killed in Indonesia?"

He said that the major question which must be handled now and the most important problem for the government and the whole security apparatus of the country is ensuring that public order, unity, and national union are safeguarded.

This is important in helping the government to achieve what the people want. The government, which deals with issues such as the economic situation, which is sometimes beyond its capacity to handle as a result of the world economic situation, should not have to be disturbed by such matters.

Basic Human Rights

Speaking of basic human rights, Yoga expressed the personal view that the most important right is the right of the community as a whole. This takes priority over the rights of individuals or small groups.

He added that what was reflected in all government operations, whether Operation Justice, Operation Law and Order, or other operations, was the effort made by the government to meet the wishes of the community as a whole. As a result of these operations the people as a whole feel calmer and more secure.

If there is restlessness, then those who are restless are those who have been picked up in those operations. Those who are not disturbed certainly do not feel restless, Yoga said.

According to the chief of BAKIN, there is no reason to be pessimistic about the present situation.

Regarding the security situation, he considered it good, in the sense that everything is relatively under control. We don't have to make a fuss about pamphlets, because these have been around for a longtime. He did not make clear what these pamphlets were.

5170

CSO: 4213/532

EAST JAVA PROVINCE HAS LARGEST NUMBER OF POOR IN COUNTRY

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 23 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Yogyakarta, KOMPAS—East Java Province turns out to have the largest number of poor people in Indonesia. On the basis of data from the 17 provinces throughout Indonesia, East Java has the largest group of people whose income is less than 20 kilograms of rice equivalent per month. This group includes 10,377,769 people, or 44.69 percent of the population of village areas in East Java.

It has been concluded that this group, with a per capita income of less than 4,000 rupiah per month or 133 rupiah per day, is unable to obtain food which is sufficient for their needs, which is nutritious, and which is adequate to maintain their health. They are not capable of holding jobs requiring physical labor, particularly in order to take care of their other needs, such as health care, education, and other expenditures.

A statement about the extent of poverty in village areas of East Java was made at a meeting on Thursday and Friday [21-22 July] at the Center for Research and Study of Village and Surrounding Areas (PPSPK) at the Bulaksumur Campus of Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta. The meeting was held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the PPSPK.

Village Development

Professor Doctor Mulyarto, director of the PPSPK at Gadjah Mada University, mentioned that out of the entire village population in the 17 provinces of Indonesia it had been found that almost 25 percent of the people were living below the poverty line. Quoting from data from the National Social and Economic Survey (SUSENAS) of 1980, he pointed out: "Beside the considerable progress we have made and enjoyed together, a portion of our nation (about 17 percent) is still having a very difficult time in earning a living."

Available data indicates that in the 17 provinces there are 24,872,941 poor people (17.24 percent of the village population). Of this total the largest number, after East Java, is found in Central Java (6,130,436), West Java (3,887,855), East Nusa Tenggara (914,967), South Sulawesi (651,911), West Nusa Tenggara (617,919), and Yogyakarta (610,333).

Calculated as a percentage of the population of each province, East Java is still the highest (44.69 percent), followed by East Nusa Tenggara (36.71 percent), West Nusa Tenggara (31.04 percent), Central Java (30.07 percent), and Yogyakarta (28.64 percent).

The province with the smallest number of poor people is Jambi (1,895 poor people or 0.15 percent of the population).

Subyarto declared that the achievement of economic development is easy to measure but that the achievement of human development is more difficult to measure! He said: "When we point to the figures on the village population which still lives below the poverty line, those figures only provide a picture of how large a problem we still face. We need to consider efficient and effective ways to reduce the number of the poor."

Wiping Out Poverty

At the same meeting Dr Moeljarto Tjokrowinoto expressed the view that for a long period of time the problems our country and nation will face will continue to involve the question of wiping out poverty, physical handicaps, and unemployment.

He said: "Although the problems of poverty, physical handicaps, and unemployment are national problems, in an agrarian country like Indonesia these will involve village people in particular, who are the majority of our population."

Doctor Moeljarto declared that for a long time to come our farmers will be the structural determinants of national development, the people who decide the success or failure of the Indonesian nation, in wiping out poverty, physical handicaps, and unemployment.

In his view those factors led Gadjah Mada University in 1973 to allocate intellectual resources, funds, and facilities to study the various questions related to village development.

Doctor Moeljarto said: "In an implicit way the choice of this scale of priorities made Gadjah Mada University identify itself with certain values oriented toward the little people living in the villages." This orientation continued to be used by Gadjah Mada University at a time when the government was still oriented toward a pattern of growth based on the principles of the market system, the open economy, a stable monetary climate, limited government interference in the economy, and a variety of policies aimed at encouraging foreign capital investment.

Problem of Poverty

The problem of poverty in our country, according to Dr Loekman Soetrisno, remains, following efforts to solve it which were made by the Dutch colonial government.

However, this effort to abolish poverty failed because the Dutch regarded village-level poverty as a series of separate problems. They regarded it as a problem of mental health, a problem of nutrition, a problem of proper housing. Even their various programs were developed in terms of the separate problem areas mentioned above.

This was also related to the view of village people held by the Dutch government officials. They regarded them as a group of "stupid" [bodoh] people who needed to be provided with guidance in order to improve the way they lived.

This kind of view brought out paternalistic relationships between Dutch officials and village people. Dr Loekman Soetrisno said: "The Dutch expected that the village people would act like children with their father, accepting whatever was offered by the government, without being permitted to ask questions as to whether what they were given was what they needed or not."

He expressed regret that these standards of village development, which had turned out to be unsuccessful, apparently were still in use after Indonesia became independent. Those responsible for village development continued to regard poverty as a compilation of a variety of "ignorant" practices or as a result of insufficient

understanding by the poor people of the villages of what good nutrition or proper housing was. Thus, our development planners also developed programs which were aimed at making up for these perceived shortcomings among the poor people.

He stated: "Later on programs like nutrition gardens [taman gizi], health pharmacies [apotek hidup], and so forth were implemented. Basically, these were only "rekuef" programs which resolved problems over the short term, because they were based on a mistaken perception of the social, economic, and political background of poverty in Indonesia."

Bureaucratic Alienation

According to Dr Loekman Soetrisno, because the village development planners had separated poverty into various segments, the funds provided by the government were also allocated separately. More seriously, the use made of these funds was not properly coordinated. Each ministry came into the villages with its own programs for abolishing poverty. This finally led to confusion among the target groups.

This situation arose as a result of our bureaucratic alienation from the people around us. For that reason our bureaucrats found it difficult to obtain adequate information and data on the real aspirations of the poor.

According to Dr Loekman Soetrisno, this bureaucratic alienation was closely connected to government officials' attitude toward village people and particularly toward the poor. In other words, in the view of the bureaucrats the people were a source of energy, while the bureaucrats were the source of all information. Therefore, the participation of the people, and particularly of the poor people, was not absolutely required in the process of development planning.

The bureaucracy only wanted to mobilize the people to support the programs which it had planned. This tendency was clearly apparent during the second and third 5-year plans. Loekman concluded that this tendency was closely connected to the profits made by the government from petroleum exports.

Loekman Soetrisno also noted that in 1981, simultaneously with the decline in receipts from petroleum exports, there was a change in the government attitude toward the usefulness of participation by the people in development.

The concept of "bottom up planning" [in English in text] began to solidify as a strategy for village development. The problem was how to make the concept of "bottom up planning" a guide for development officials and managers at the provincial level. Dr Loekman Soetrisno thinks that unless that concept is actually applied by provincial officials, it will only function as a kind of empty "political jargon."

It might be added that during the 11 years of its community work the PPSPK at Gadjah Mada University has divided its research staff into five types of activity: Agrarian History, under Prof Dr Sartono Kartodirdjo, Land and Irrigation Affairs under Dr Loekman Soetrisno, Village Institutions and Communications under Dr Moeljarto Tjokrowinoto, Village Poverty and Employment Opportunity under Professor Doctor Mubyarto, and Village Developmental Planning and Evaluation under Doctor Nasikun.

BRIEFS

COCO OIL EXPORTS--JAKARTA, Aug. 4 (Reuter)--Indonesia has banned copra and coconut oil exports indefinitely to stabilize domestic cooking oil prices and to secure regular supply of the commodities locally, Kardjono Wiroprawiro, director general of domestic trade, said. In recent months exporters have regularly sold Indonesian copra and coconut oil on the world market following a sharp decline in the Philippines' export of coconut products and an increase in world oilseed prices, he told journalists without giving figures. Domestic prices have risen and shortages have developed as a result of the increase in exports. Some exporters have stockpiled the products speculating that higher prices will develop on the world market, he said. Until recently Indonesian coconut oil and copra were exported only occasionally, he noted. [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 5 Aug 83 p 16]

CSO: 4200/793

POLITICIANS JOCKEY FOR KBL SLOTS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 1 Aug 83 pp 1, 17

[Text]

The ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) leadership continued yesterday to ignore the ongoing scramble among incumbent KBL assemblymen for slots in the party's official regional tickets for the 1984 Batasang Pambansa elections.

President Marcos, ruling party head, had earlier expressed confidence that many KBL reelectionists will voluntarily give way without having the party decide for them.

As of yesterday, it was estimated that about 40 reelectionists from the country's 13 regions, or almost 25 per cent of the total number of KBL lawmakers, may be out of the tickets. Ten Batasan seats are vacant.

This number is expected to increase or possibly decrease depending on the assemblymen's performance in the current final session of the interim Batasang Pambansa.

As KBL head, the President, upon consultation with party leaders, has the final say on the inclusion or exclusion of candidates. He is aware of the performance of the KBL party members in the

legislature.

Aside from the monitoring of all Batasan sessions by the Office of Media Affairs, the President is informed of the assemblymen's activities through Deputy Prime Minister Jose A. Roño, majority floor leader.

The criteria for selection of the party's candidates for 1984 could not be ascertained. It was hinted, however, that Cabinet members who were elected to the Batasan in 1978 and those appointed thereafter, may be required to run.

Fifty-three assemblymen appointed by the President as ministers of state and five others who have been named chairmen of various Batasan standing committees are considered certain of inclusion in the tickets, unless they would decide not to run.

The five committee chairmen are Assemblymen Rodolfo Albano (KBL, Cagayan Valley), civil service; Carlos M. Padilla (KBL, Cagayan Valley), cultural communities; Pedro Mendiola (KBL,

CABINET REPORTEDLY DIVIDED ON AQUINO RETURN

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 1 Aug 83 pp 6, 13

[Article by Jesus Bigornia]

[Excerpt]

The opposition's No. 1 bet for the presidency, former Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr., may not, after all, come home this week from his self-imposed exile. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs refuses to return his old passport, let alone issue a travel paper of any sort. No travel document, no trip. Not a few people are disappointed. Regret has not been confined to the ranks of the anti-Marcos groups. In the leadership ranks of the Kilusan Bagong Lipunan, there are those who would dearly love to have "Ninoy" Aquino back — for their own personal reasons.

Among the few administration big wigs who believe Aquino should be allowed to come home, Minister of Labor and Employment Blas F. Ople deplures he has been deprived of the opportunity to test the exile's vaunted political overlordship in their common bailiwick — Central Luzon. Ople and Aquino share more than birth in Region III (Aquino at Concepcion, Tarlac, Ople at Hagonoy, Bulacan). Both cut their teeth

in the public service in the old Manila Times where copy reader Ople straightened out the grammatical monstrosities of the fledgling reporter Aquino. Like a meteor, Aquino had shot into the political atmosphere, while the editorial drudge remained hardly known outside journalism circles.

The wheels of fortune have turned 180 degrees since their newspaper days. Aquino's fortunes declined to a nadir with detention and later in exile in the United States. Election of the then Senate President Ferdinand B. Marcos to the Presidency of the Philippines catapulted the radical newspaperman Ople to the cabinet. Next year's election would have been an ideal occasion to test who is the real political leader of Central Luzon, Ople says.

Ople dismisses Padre Faura's fears that Aquino may be assassinated upon return. "No political leader worth his salt is quite free of this danger," Ople maintains. "Like all of us, let Aquino take his chances."

CSO: 4200/780

POLITICAL CONTEST IN VISAYAS EXAMINED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 1 Aug 83 p 40

[Article by Gualberto B. Lunaug]

[Text]

With elections to the Batasan barely 10 months away, in May, political speculations are again in the air. Favorite topic among coffee shop prognosticators is the fate of the Opposition, particularly in Central Visayas or Region VII where "Pusyon Bisaya" made a clean sweep of the elections in 1978.

I remember how, when the Batasang Pambansa was inaugurated July 12, 1978, the triumphant Pusyon assemblymen were greeted by the huge assemblage with a thunderous ovation, characteristic of the Filipino's sporting love to cheer men of fighting spirit. At the head of the group was the colorful Natalio Bacalso, noted Cebuano radio commentator, whose wit has since been missed by colleagues because of his untimely demise.

Pusyon, however, did not seem to be able to weld its unity for long, because in the 1980 local elections members went their individual ways, some even running for governor without the support of the group. Result was disastrous, and weakening to the once formidable union. Then, in the presidential election of 1981, Pusyon assemblyman Bart Cahangbung threw his hat into the ring, organizing a "Federalist Party" and shocking nationalists by ruggedly advocating statehood in USA.

In the Batasan today, Pusyon has become fragmented into three — one group has the mercurial Nick Logarta with Jess Villegas, Julian Yhalie, Fr. Jorge Kantanar, Dominador Pernes, Eutiquio Cimafranca, Alfonso Corominas, and Enrique Medina. Another is the tandem of scholarly Hilario Davide, Jr. and the articulate Filemon Fernandez, both well regarded for their conscientious parliamentary role in the minority. The third lone "faction" is Assemblyman Valentino (Billy) Legaspi, who many think could have filled the vacuum left

by Bacalso had he not been busy joining demonstrations in Cebu.

The coffee gossip is that Nick's larger group has plans of coalescing with the KBL to clinch reelection. This move, however, would run into impediments against guest candidates. Besides, Region VII KBL leaders, notably Cebu Governor Eddie Gullas and Negros Oriental Gov. Lorenzo Teves, are quoted as saying, "Anyone joining KBL must first start as foot soldier, not as general."

To some Cebuanos, the sound alone of the word coalition rings the death knell for Opposition and blurs the Puyon image of knight in shining armour daring to joust with political giants like the Duranos, Gullas, Cuencos, Teves and the well-oiled machinery of the party in power.

Does this mean the ruling party will have easy sailing in Region VII? Durano's district, incidentally, did not knuckle down before Puyon's onslaught in 1978. Nevertheless, with 1.2 million votes in Cebu and 900,000 votes in Bohol and Oriental Negros, the Region is no pushover. Cebuanos treasure a political legacy of independent minded pace-setters, like Osmeña, Garcia, Briones, Jakosalem and Sotto, even as younger leaders today make their mark.

As to what group would lead the Opposition to a repeat victory, what possibility if John Osmeña returns, who will run in place of those who back out — these pose a political conundrum making a literate Cebuano ask, "Quo vadimus, Puyon?"

CSO: 4200/780

UNIDO MAY FIELD NO MANILA CANDIDATES

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 23 Jul 83 pp 1, 2

[Article by Mike Yncino]

[Text] The national leadership of the United Democratic Organization (UNIDO) may not field bets in the National capital region in '84. This was speculated by Assemblyman Valentino Legaspi of the regional UNIDO yesterday.

Legaspi said that the regional UNIDO, however, is forming its own slate which would be chosen in consensus styled polling from among its mass membership. He however, refused to disclose the identity of hopefuls for the Unido Patasan slate for region 7

According to Legaspi it is premature to disclose the names of the prospective candidates since it would naturally discourage other hopefuls. He said, as expected, they will select the final slate for the UNIDO candidates here in a democratic manner without any clearance or go signal from anyone

In the same interview with VISAYAN HERALD, Legaspi reiterated his charge that all the "oppositionists" who won seats in the national Assembly election in the 1978 elections have become members of the Malacanang shadow cabinet and have allegedly pledged their loyalties to the administration in exchange for junkets abroad Legaspi also revealed that the travelling solons are asked to say something nice about the New Society and about the Philippine regime at private banquets or parties held in their destined junket bases abroad.

CSO: 4200/781

PHILIPPINES

CATHOLIC LEADER CRITICIZES MARCOS' TREATMENT OF MIDDLE CLASS

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 23 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The regime of President Marcos is taxing the middle class to extinction in an effort to impose austere living during this recessionary times, yet national leadership are "living ostentatious lives." Marcos critic and Catholic leader Jaime Cardinal Sin charged.

The people would follow if "the national leadership were to set the example," the cardinal said before members of the lay organization Knights of Columbus.

The call for a simpler life style "sounds hollow in the face of the extravagant example set by our leaders" yet they "want us to shun luxurious living... by the simple expedient of imposing taxes that if allowed to go on is bound to eliminate the middle class," the cardinal said.

Apparently referring to Mr. Marcos, the cardinal said that "when our leader declares solemnly that all government officials must cut down on their traveling, they should apply to all, not just to the rank and file."

"When he declares war on graft and corruption.. that war should not be confined to policemen and mail carriers but should extend to everybody to include also those who are close to him," he added.

DISMAL PICTURE The cardinal said he had reviewed the national scene over the past several weeks and that the picture he got was "depressing and dismal, certainly far from inspiring."

The peso was devalued and Filipinos were told "this would bring untold benefits." The "benefits" that followed according to the prelate, were "sky-rocketing prices."

"On the one hand we were told to tighten our belts and yet we were treated to the ridiculous spectacle of a wedding so lavish that it beggars description. People were so scandalized that many of them asked me if it was merely coincidental that the peso was devalued soon after." the cardinal said.

The cardinal said he was also "puzzled for a little while" when a declaration of a state of emergency in drought-stricken areas recommended by the

agriculture minister was turned down and the Cabinet instead recommended that food aid from the United States be hereafter refused

"Then it came to me (it) was out of the question for how could such a declaration be justified considering all the publicity concerning the rosy economic picture of the country," he added.

The cardinal, however, admonished his audience to make their own lives an example. "To condemn our national leaders...is merely to curse the darkness. Far better would it be if all of us were to light a little candle (and) our individual candles to merge...for a brighter world," he said.

CSO: 4200/781

FOREIGN DEBT PAYMENTS NEAR 2.8 BILLION FOR 1983

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 30 Jul 83 p 10

[Article by George T. Nerves]

[Text]

THE country's interest payments and amortization on foreign debts is projected to reach about \$2.8 billion this year, slightly higher than last year's \$2.2 billion, according to senior Central Bank officials.

However, the projected debt service would still be below the country's self-imposed ceiling on interest and amortization payments, they added.

The \$2.8-billion debt service burden represents projected amortization and interest payments on about \$14-billion worth of fixed term debt.

CB officials estimate the total foreign debt at about \$17 billion, which includes fixed term-debt of \$13.52 billion as of March 1983 and, \$1.744 billion as of December 1982.

LAST year, the CB officials said, the amortization on principal amounted to about \$999 million. It meant that interest payments alone reached some \$1.3 billion.

Despite the increase in the debt service burden, the CB has publicly announced that the debt service ratio this year would be 19.6 percent, slightly below the self-imposed ratio of 20 percent. In 1982, the ratio was 19.4 percent.

The World Bank, which uses a different method in computing the debt service, estimated recently that the

debt service in 1982 was 25.2 percent.

The debt service ratio, prescribed under RA 6142, refers to the ratio of total yearly amortization and interest payments on total fixed term debt (excluding revolving credits) to gross foreign exchange receipts in the immediately preceding year.

TO keep the ratio within the legal ceiling, the CB has imposed this year a limit of \$2 billion for commercial and concessional loans.

It also prescribed the minimum repayment and maximum interest rates that may be charged on foreign loans of local borrowers.

Monetary authorities have likewise limited the availability of foreign financing to the foreign exchange costs of priority projects in food production, power and energy exploration, export-oriented projects and other projects approved by the Investment Coordination Committee.

CB officials have also assured concessional and commercial lenders that no new foreign loans will be made this year to finance the BOP deficit estimated to be between \$600 million and \$800 million.

Moreover, the CB plans to cut short-term foreign debts by about \$50 million by end 1983.

FEARS ON FOREIGN DEBT ALLAYED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 31 Jul 83 p 12

[Text] PRIME Minister Cesar Virata said the other night that fears over the repayment of the country's foreign debts were unfounded because adequate controls on external borrowings have been in place starting over 10 years ago.

The Prime Minister made the statement in answer to fears reportedly expressed in the financial community that the country may find it difficult to repay some foreign loans which will mature at the same time starting 1984.

The country's foreign debt is estimated at about \$17 billion, including fixed-term debts and revolving credits.

Virata dismissed the reported fears, pointing out that monetary authorities have adopted controls on fresh borrowings every year by both the private and public sectors.

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VIRATA dismissed the reported fears, pointing out that monetary authorities have adopted controls on fresh borrowings every year by both the private and public sectors.

CB Gov. Jaime C. Laya also assured the country's commercial lenders in a recent meeting in Paris, France, that the Philippines does not intend to ask for a rescheduling of its foreign debts.

He pointed out that the CB and the banking system has enough reserves and foreign assets to adequately service the country's maturing foreign obligations.

THIS year, the Central Bank has set an absolute ceiling of \$2 billion for both commercial and concessional loans.

The CB has likewise estimated the debt service burden in 1983 to be about 19.6 percent, which is still below the country's self-imposed ceiling of 20 percent prescribed under RA 6142.

Next year, the debt service ratio is still estimated to be about 19.6 percent, Virata said in briefing for local and foreign newsmen.

The CB estimates that in 1983, the debt service (amortization and interest payments on fixed-term foreign debt) will be about \$2.8 billion, a slight increase from last year's \$2.2 billion.

The projected debt service burden consists of \$1.8 billion in interest payments and amortization of about \$1 billion.

In 1982, the debt service reached \$2.2 billion, consisting of amortization worth \$999 million and interest payments of about \$1.3 billion.

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IN FACT, CB officials pointed out that the 19.6 percent debt service estimate for 1983 was a little high because it was based on a higher LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate).

The CB estimates that a percentage point drop in the LIBOR is equivalent to \$96 million savings in interest on the country's foreign debts.

SALE OF NATIONAL BIRTHRIGHT TO FOREIGNER DEPLORED

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 23 Jul 83 p 4

[Article by Atty. Migs Enriquez, Jr.]

[Text] This year the Philippine government embarked on distinctly peculiar commercial ventures which ignited a host of varied reactions. When the administration publicly offered citizenship status to aliens willing to invest not less than 200,000 dollars in the Philippines, the initial reactor of the people was one of stunned disbelief which later ripened into anger and disgust when they found out that the government was really bent in selecting Filipino citizenship to those willing to pay in order to enjoy the rights and privileges of Filipinos.

Then before the resounding outcry of the public on this insane offer has abated, another abhorrent and outrageous if not malicious, business scheme was concocted by the technocrats of the administration in the form of an offer to sell, which later on was changed to an offer to lease, commercial and industrial lands to multi-national corporations, to induce them to do business in the country. Again, Filipinos from all walks of life protested against this insidious move to sell the birthright of the people & the patrimony of the nation. There was a general feeling that a time will come with multinational corporations will own the Philippine territory and the Filipinos will be a nation without a home of their own.

But not contented with these outrageous offers to desecrate the Filipino heritage, the administration has now signed a fantastic contract with a foreign corporation which at first blush appears to be incredible but which the government is seriously interested to put through. The only trouble is that it might again antagonize the drought-stricken segments of the population.

The Ministry of Human Settlements has recently signed a contract with an American firm which supplies water for oil-rich Arab Emirate for this country to sell water to Abu Dhabi for irrigation purposes. The idea is for tankers carrying oil to Japan to pass by the Philippines to load water inside the empty tankers on their way back to Abu Dhabi. Since many large crude carriers from Japan usually stop in the Philippines for drydocking and repairs, then water could easily be supplied to fill up the empty tanks on their way back to the Middle East where water is considered a valuable and critical commodity.

However, the possible hitch on this project is that due to the size of the tankers, only large lakes can fully fill up their tanks without unnecessary and expensive delays. Hence, the government has no other alternative except to tap the water resources of Lake Lanao and Lake Nauhan in Mindanao for this purpose. but as a result of the recent drought, the water level in these two lakes had dropped to such an extent that the hydro-electric plants there had to suspend operations. To sell the water in Lake Lanao and in Lake Nauhan would not be politically popular in the coming elections. And this is the reason why the government is unusually silent about this fantastic project.

We just hope that the next offer will not involve the sale of human lives like what happened in Africa at the height of slavery.

CSO: 4200/781

'INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT' REPORTEDLY DISMANTLED IN ABRA

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 16 Jul 83 pp 1, 9

[Text]

An estimated 300 followers of the communist New People's Army (NPA) have surrendered, resulting in the dismantling of the so-called "Invisible Government" of the NPA in Abra.

Brig. Gen. Victorino T. Asada, Ilocos Regional Constabulary Commander, said most of the surrenderers were officers and members of the Barrio Revolutionary Councils, the organizational core of the PNA's "Invisible Government" in the province.

Many of them, Asada said, acted as couriers, gunners, fund solicitors and food procurers for the armed NPA regulars.

He said the councils were responsible for the collection of "Taxes" from the people in the hinterlands of Abra.

The "taxes" he said, ranged from one peso to 30 pesos per family, including a share of crop harvests.

He said the NPAs revolutionary communials were set up in remote barangays of Abra where

the dissidents used to roam around freely.

Aside from imposing taxes on the people, the NPAs also demanded revenues from legitimate loggers in the mountains of Abra and neighboring mountain province.

"If the loggers fail to pay, the dissidents confiscate their tools and equipment and do the logging themselves," Asada said.

He said some mining companies in mountain province also received extortion letters from the NPA, asking them to pay certain amounts to insure that their workers and equipment would not be harmed.

To prevent the expansion of the dissidents in remote barangays, we have strengthened various citizen home defense forces for them to become strong deterrents against rebel attacks," Asada said.

He said more PC-police detachments would be organized in sensitive areas to protect the people from NPA harassment.

CHINESE POPULATION GROWTH TERMED 'NO THREAT'

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 23 Jul 83 pp 3, 11

[Text] "There is no threat on the ever growing Chinese population in the Philippines," says Felix C. Sevidal, the Population Commission (POPCOM) Program Coordinator, in an interview.

He emphasized that the agency's thrusts is to minimize or lower the growth rate of the low income sector of the country whom he observed is reproducing more children than any other group whether Filipino or Chinese. He noted that rich families have three kids or fewer while the poor have more children.

Sevidal issued the statement in answer to a question asked in an interview by VISAYAN HERALD as to whether the Chinese are included in the POPCOM's thrust of Family Planning. He stressed that Chinese schools have Population Education under the Ministry of Education and Culture.

However, he said that if some Chinese will come and ask for the POPCOM's birth control paraphernalia his office is willing to provide them

Sevidal also reacted to some complaints that condoms are being used as toy ballons by kids He said that it is not possible because those things are properly safeguarded and all the Barangay Service Point Officers are instructed not to distribute it indiscriminately.

"The receiver of those birth control materials are genuine family planning acceptors," he stressed.

CSO: 4200/781

COLUMNIST DEPLORES WIDESPREAD GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 19 Jul 83 p 4

[Article by Atty. Migs Enriquez, Jr.]

[Text]

One of the foremost advocates of the effectiveness of leadership by example was Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher who had been revered for his wisdom throughout the world. The history of China is a confirmation of the precept that a country's progress, power and prosperity oftentimes depend on the character of its ruler rather than the quality of its institution. "Cesar hoped to reform men by changing institutions and laws. But Christ wished to remake institutions and lessen laws, by changing men." The result was that the laws and institutions of Cesar did not prevent the fall of the Roman Empire while the teachings of Christ on the importance of character in governing men has been confirmed by posterity.

Under the aegis of the New Society, we can only count a few public officials who lead exemplary lives. This is hardly surprising because public morality has sunk to its lowest level. And this sad state of moral de-

pravity has permeated in all sectors of the community.

However, there are still a few officials of the government whose leadership qualities should be recognized and emulated. Gov. Manolito Asok of the smallest province in the Philippines, has made wonders in Siquijor. Corruption in public offices has been reduced to an insignificant level. The peace and order situation is one of the best in the Philippines. Illegal gambling like *masiao* and *"tigbakay"* has been totally eliminated. It is probably the only place in the country where the people can soundly sleep without locking their doors, the only place where there is almost complete rapport and cooperation between the local government and its constituents.

The ideal situation that now exists in Siquijor proves beyond doubt that if the leader is good the people will also strive to be good. Gov. Asok has shown his constituents that there is much that can be done to promote the general welfare by sincere, honest and dedicated

service. He translated national policies into concrete achievements. Instead of preaching the virtues of hard work, he personally goes fishing for his family's daily consumption. He leads the tree-planting campaign by planting with his own hands trees around his house. He does not buy vegetables but cultivates a vegetables garden sufficient for his needs.

Probably, because of his experience as a CFI judge, he is judicious and impartial in the performance of his functions as chief executive of the province. A respecter of human rights, he is also a strict enforcer of the law. Truly, the rapid development and progress of Siquijor can be attributed to the sterling character and qualities of its governor who leads by example.

CSO: 4200/781

POLICE RAID ARSENAL OF NEW REBEL GROUP

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 21 Jul 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

A plot of the rural reformist movement, headed by Pedro Ellana, Jr., to gather firearms and eventually merge with the NPA subversives was uncovered by the authorities following the arrest of Ellana's top henchman and 7 other companions and the confiscation of their firearms at Sitio Lorega, Barangay Mari-log, Baguio district, the other day.

Calinan police station commander Sgt. Herminigildo Marante bared the identity of Ellana's top aide as Ricardo Blawon, alias Commander Alo. The identities of his companions were withheld by authorities. Seized from Blawon were three armalite rifles, one M1 carbine, a gauge 20 homemade handgun and a fragmentation grenade.

Earlier, this year, Ellana was reportedly nabbed by elements of the Recom XI regional security unit (RSU) at a friend's house in GSIS Village, Matina, this city. The arrest of Ellana, however, has not been confirmed by Recom authorities but friends of Ellana at GSIS disclosed that the latter is now being detained by the military authorities at Camp Catitipan.

Pedro Ellana, Jr. is well-known as Commander Alitaptap by his followers. He organized the Philippine Rural Reformist Movement (PRRM) after he bolted from the CPP/NPA group due to ideological differences. The PRRM controlled the areas in the hinterlands

from Dalag to Paquibato and for sometime engaged the CPP/NPA dissidents in armed clashes to block the Communist dissidents from forming a mass base among the natives in the area.

Recent events, however, led the authorities to suspect that the PRRM is merging with the Communist dissidents in harassing civilians in the area and divesting the CHDF militiamen of their firearms.

Marante said that Blawon and his seven companions were initially interrogated by the police on threat complaints filed against them by a number of residents in the area. The interrogation, however, led to the disclosure of Blawon of their firearm hidden in the hollow of a fallen log in their hideout at Sitio Lorega.

Blawon and his group also admitted to the strafing of the house of two tribal chieftains wherein the mother of one chieftain was hurt, the ambush of CHDF members at Tamugan

River and the disarming of CH-DF Mananquito Esdang and Colonel Ayon of their issued firearms.

Blawon and his companions are now detained at the Calinan Police Station pending the filing of subversion charges against them. — (cesar cuison/ rudy calanasingin)

CSO: 4200/782

ELDER STATESMAN CALLS FOR ANTI-MARCOS STAND

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 19 Jul 83 p 4

[Article by Danny M. Gonzales]

[Excerpt]

THE HONORABLE and respected old man, former Senator Lorenzo Tanada, broke his silence anew not long ago. And what came out from his mouth is an exhortation for the holding of militant demonstrations against Pres. Marcos' sweeping police powers. He was speaking at a workers' symposium in a Catholic school in Metro Manila.

—oOo—

BADGE OF HONOR

THE 84-YEAR-OLD political leader said that the demonstrators should even risk imprisonment. To be jailed by Pres. Marcos, he stressed, is a badge of honor. Tanada was not talking through his hat when he said it. He was sincere. For he himself led a militant demonstration protesting the dirty 1978 elections. It was a march in the streets of opposition leaders and sympathizers. He was jailed for several weeks along with other opposition leaders and sympathizers.

—oOo—

CREDIBLE OPPOSITION

TANADA is acknowledged as a credible opposition leader.

Even before the martial law regime, he was a respected lawmaker. A staunch nationalist, he has always placed his country's welfare over and above anything else. Even at his old age, Tanada has remained active in his political life. And he remains among the few respected leaders of the country.

—oOo—

TIME RUNNING SHORT

PERHAPS, he knows that time is running short on him. Thus, in the twilight of his life, Tanada is working hard to do something for the good of his country. A sick man, he persists with his involvement in the struggle for the country's liberation.

—oOo—

A CHALLENGE

THUS, WHAT this sick old man has been doing and is still doing is a challenge to all of us. Especially to those who believe in honor, freedom, justice, and equality. For if an aged man could find courage in involving himself in militant activities, why can't the young and healthy ones do the same? I can only hope old man Tanada's call won't fall on deaf ears.

COLUMNIST EXPLAINS FAILURE OF OPPOSITION RALLY

Davao City MINDANAO TIMES in English 8 Jul 83 p 2

["As I See It" column by Bobby C. Montemayor]

[Excerpt]

The Jaso-Zarzabudo feud topped the news of the week. It even drowned the political rally of the opposition PDP-LABAN and the Mindanao Alyansa which was held at the Rizal Park last Monday afternoon. The speakers consisting of Sonny Osena, Doming Carillo, Zaf Rospicio, Dado Caga, Alex Grendo and others spoke about the usual anti-American, Japanese and Marcos criticisms before a motley crowd. We heard some observers however talking about why the Chinese were left out in the attacks when their number in the country is more than the Americans and the Japanese combined. A group of newsmen are still thinking about the reason why. We have good materials in the Opposition who spoke in that rally, but what should not be forgotten is that when it comes to an election logistics and organization is very important indeed. We do not mean that logistics that will be used to buy votes but only even for the expenses during the campaign for transportation, manpower, food and propaganda materials and pocket money for the campaigners. Add to this the expenses during political rallies like

sound system, radio-tv and print coverage and other miscellaneous expenditures. This is why it is not unusual that at the beginning there are many candidates who aspire for a particular elective position, but as the campaign goes on and as the election day is approaching one by one start dropping out because of their inability to finance their candidacy ending up with only one or two candidates fighting for the position. The analysis in the coffee shop talks about why the rally of the Opposition was not a success is because of inadequacies like organization, funding and perhaps the lack of final decision to really unite and fight together for a common cause. This is very important for the Opposition parties to do pitted against the ruling party that is united and may have no problem on logistics and organization. The talks about former mayor Luis T. Santos to be being one of the speakers in that rally did not prosper. In fact there were bettings to the effect where one side said Santos will speak and the other side he will not speak. Anyway, both groups that made a bet one side or the other drank all the beer that was the subject of the betting.

LOBBYING FOR INTERNAL REVENUE POSTS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 8 Aug 83 p 28

[Text]

Intense lobbying among top government officials and politicians for the promotion and transfer of their proteges and friends at the Bureau of Internal Revenue continued even as Revenue Commissioner Ruben B. Ancheta said "there is no revamp yet."

Insiders said many influential government officials are pressuring Ancheta and his top deputies, Tomas C. Toledo and Romulo M. Villa, to appoint their favored friends to juicy and sensitive posts.

They said lobbying began during the last few months when the BIR top management hinted that key officials from service chiefs and regional director down to field examiners will be reshuffled "shortly."

Ancheta gave no indication when he would make the shakeup when he addressed the other day revenue officials and employees on the occasion of the 79th founding anniversary of the BIR.

Ancheta recognized, however, the existence of these lobby groups when he said, "I don't like this idea of being pressured to reshuffle BIR personnel."

Ancheta said that the Tax Code gives the BIR commissioner the authority to move people.

But said that if he exercises the power, he would do so "judiciously, carefully and fairly."

He also said he would consult his two deputies and service chiefs on any movement, "but when I sign the assignment orders, it would be my own decision."

Ancheta also advised revenue officials and employees to treat the movement of personnel as a continuing normal process, and urged them to concentrate on their jobs so that the bureau will be able to meet its P21.6-billion target for 1983.

He said the BIR will have to depend on existing tax laws to meet its goal since the administration has no plan to come out with new tax measures this year.

MANOBO TRIBESMEN AMBUSH NPA

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 5 Aug 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

COTABATO CITY,
Aug. 4—Manobo natives, mostly armed with spears and darts, ambushed yesterday a band of 30 members of the New People's Army (NPA) in the outskirts of Magpet town, killing three of the rebels and wounding several others.

A report received here by Brig. Gen. Jose P. Magno, Jr., Central Mindanao Command chief, from Brig. Gen. Cesar Tapia, commanding general of the Army's second infantry brigade, said the Manobo ambush was in retaliation for the NPA attack on four Manobo communities in Magpet two weeks ago.

Six Manobo tribesmen, including a Civilian Home Defense Force commander, his wife and two children, were gunned down during the NPA attack.

According to Magpet Mayor Carlos Lebrillo, Manobo attackers were led by village chieftain Date Manganlang of

Barangay Libertad and two native CHDF members.

Lebrillo said the natives received a report from a farmer that a group of NPA rebels was en route to another mountain village.

Losing no time, the Manobos reportedly got their weapons and hid themselves on top of trees along the trail to be taken by the dissidents.

When the rebels came, the natives attacked them with spears and darts. Caught by surprise, the rebels escaped to a thick section of the forest, carrying their wounded companions and leaving behind their dead.

Brig. Gen. Magno and North Cotabato Gov. Carlos Cajelo commended the natives for their heroic act. The two officials said the Manobos have consistently refused to support the NPA in spite of threats from the rebels.

GOVERNMENT BORROWING BOOSTS EXTERNAL DEBT

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 3 Aug 83 pp 9, 10

[Article by George T. Nervez]

[Text]

THE country's foreign debt rose to about \$18 billion as of June 1983, an increase of \$700 million or four percent from the level at the end of 1982, largely because of fresh loans by the public sector.

The increase, according to Central Bank Gov. Jaime C. Laya, reflected mainly borrowings of the national government and government corporations or financial institutions to finance ongoing infrastructure projects.

However, Laya said in his first semester report on the economy that the increase in new foreign borrowings during the period was actually slower than the

6.7 percent growth during the first six months of 1982.

CB data showed that outstanding fixed-term loans at end-June 1983 amounted to \$13.4 billion. Revolving credits as of March 1983 amounted to \$4.6 billion, an increase of 5.9 percent over the end of 1982 level.

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LAYA noted that of the total fixed-term debt \$8 billion or 59.5 percent was accounted for by the public sector, an expansion of 5.6 percent over the end-1982 level.

He added that government accounted for 55.5 percent of total public debt with loans amounting to \$4.4 bil-

lion, or 7.5 percent more than the December 1982 level.

On the other hand, foreign loans of the private sector, including those relet under the Consolidated Foreign Borrowing Program rose by two percent from the end-1982 level to \$5.4 billion as of June 1983.

The growth, Laya said, was due mainly to the increase of public loans used for onlending to the private sector with the bulk funded from the DFBP.

Meanwhile, loans directly contracted, which accounted for 60.4 percent of total private sector debt at the end of 1982, dropped by two percent to reach \$3.15 billion.

SALES OF MAJOR INDUSTRIES INCREASE 16 PERCENT

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 5 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

THE PHILIPPINE economic recovery continues to get stronger as sales of 900 companies in 21 key industry sectors went up by 16 percent during the first half of this year over the sales made during the first semester in 1982.

A joint survey of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) showed that sales from January to June 1983 reached P35.6 billion, compared to P30.6 billion during the same period last year.

The survey revealed that on a June-to-June basis, the sales increase of the 21 industry sectors is 20 percent, from P5.5 billion in 1982 to P6.6 billion this year.

As an indication of how robust the economy has become, the MTI-PCCI survey reported that only three of the 21 industries did not have double-digit sales growth during the first six months this year.

...

THE SURVEY also indicated a buying spree among the consumers as sales of consumer-oriented industries perked up substantially.

Among the industries that are enjoying more consumer spending are consumer durables (appliances, chinaware, lamps, etc.) with 24 percent sales growth; consumer non-durables (soaps, detergents, cigarettes, etc.) with 10 percent; automotive (cars, motorcycles, etc.) 26 percent; furniture and wood-based sector 15 percent; footwear, leather and leatherware (shoes, bags, belts, etc.) 12 percent; and textiles 32 percent.

The mining and smelting industry, buoyed by increased world metal prices, topped the first six-month sales this year with 39 percent sales increase with P2.9 billion over the P2 billion in 1982.

Mining and smelting industry topped the former sales leader, textiles, because of a 64-percent sales increase last June.

CSO: 4200/784

CONTINUED MALAY AID TO REBELS DEPLORED

Davao City MINDANAO TIMES in English 8 Jul 83 p 2

["Times Dialogue" column by Jose L. Angliongto: "Mayalsia Must Stop Aiding the Rebels in the South"]

[Excerpt]

A report received recently by the Southern Command showed that the rebels with the aid of Malaysia have intensified their training of the MNLF and acquired powerful arms through Japanese training camp in Sabah.

This constitutes if true, a serious threat to the peace and order to the southern part of the Philippines. Our government should look into the report to find out how much truth there is about it.

Malaysia and the Philippines are member states of the ASEAN. The support of the rebels by Malaysia if verified to be true, constitutes a serious hostile act against a fellow brother member of ASEAN. In order not to risk the best of ASEAN unity, the ASEAN secretariat must assign a non-partisan group to investigate and verify about the report and take proper action to defuse the threat. Other-

wise, Philippine government must take serious measures to protect her national integrity, and must hold Malaysia responsible for whatever consequences as a result of her unfriendly act.

Historically, the Murids in Jolo called themselves Tausugs, a Philippine ethnic group, but once in Sabah, they identified themselves as Sabahanas. It is difficult to distinguish one group from the other. Some of these rebels trained in Sabah might be the new recruits from Sabah. The training, arming, and sending of the rebels by Malaysia is, in a way, a cover act of invasion. This raises a technical question in the Mutual Defense Act entered between the Philippines and the United States. Does the hostile act of Malaysia constitute an act of internal aggression? If so, what will the United States do to assist the Philippines under the circumstances?

BICOL KBL INVINCIBILITY THREATENED BY 'STRONG LOCAL OPPOSITION'

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 2 Aug 83 p 21

[Article by Edgar J. Tamayo]

[Text]

The KBL party in Masbate today is undergoing an acid test. Where in past electoral contests it was admittedly unbeatable, the party's claim to invincibility is now threatened by a strong local opposition. Based on public opinion, the party is fast weakening and, unless appropriate actions are instituted fast, it could well be headed for disaster.

Being blamed for the declining party clout is the reported unimpressive performance of the current leadership headed by Gov. Emilio Espinosa, Jr. It is the consensus in Masbate that although the former secretary of labor is a credentialed leader, his stewardship of the province is definitely out of sync, and has miserably failed to conform with what the KBL party is committed to pursue: the enhancement of economic development.

It is the general feeling that the unnecessarily lengthy rule of the Espinosa still leaves so much to be desired in terms of sufficient food production, employment opportunities, peace and order and basic social services. At present, Masbatenos are suffering from the scarcity of food, unavaila-

bility of potable water and lack of electricity — basic needs which they have been deprived of for so many years.

Observers add that the party's credibility was further dented by the alleged harassment of dissenters and some oppositionist circles. The death of former MVO chief Adolfo V. Celera alone is too serious a political issue to be ignored. It is bound to linger long and could sway sympathy for the opposition.

The party's crisis deepened and has become increasingly unmanageable. Except for a few Espinosa loyalists, many KBL supporters have joined the exodus to the opposition. Thousands more are simply losing confidence.

KBL ward leaders believe that the unsettling issues against the Espinosa could greatly derail the chances of the party in future polls. In fact political analysts here opine that if the KBL hierarchy ever commits the mistake of allowing any of the Espinosas to run in the 1984 Bataman elections, the party will only succeed in presiding its own political funeral in Masbate.

Accordingly, this may be the reason why President Marcos is reportedly not keen on further retaining the Espinosas for key political positions in the province.

On the other hand, the opposition is leaving no stone unturned in their spirited quest for elusive power. Already, they have gone to the remote areas blaming the Espinosas for the chronic economic problems besieging the province. And if the enthusiastic response is any gauge, they may yet be able to stage a surprising upset in 1984.

In the forefront of the new opposition is lawyer Jolly T. Fernandez, a no push-over politician who became a sensation following his fearless expose of alleged KBL excesses in the province. Another opposition stalwart who is drawing support from various sectors, is CPA-lawyer Nestor M. Espenilla, a retired BIR division chief.

Two new faces, Customs Chief Legal Officer Pablo M. Bautista and Bureau of Forest Development chief, lawyer Edmundo Cortes, could provide a change of image for the KBL. But to be able to contend with a threatening opposition, the KBL needs young leaders in place of the unpopular Espinosas or any of their anointed candidates, to survive a possible rout by the opposition in this part of Bicelandia.

FILIPINOS ABROAD EYED AS INVESTORS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 3 Aug 83 pp 1, 6

[Text]

THE GOVERNMENT is studying the feasibility of tapping overseas Filipinos for investment funds for development programs that require foreign equipment, funds and technology.

President Marcos created yesterday a committee to conduct the study and design an investment instrument that can attract funds from abroad. The special "target" is overseas workers and second generation Filipinos and other groups with ties to the Philippines.

There are more than 200,000 workers in the Middle East alone.

THE PRIORITY investment areas will be KKK projects, land utilization, small- and medium- scale industries, and housing.

The President said foreign exchange from these sources was desirable because equity investments would do away with payments on interest and principal.

Members of the study committee are the ministers of human settlements and foreign affairs; the Central Bank governor, and six private sector

representatives.

He also said that the design of the financial instrument should take into account existing government issues like dollar treasury bills.

• • •

ACCORDING to the President the committee shall, in particular, study the possibility of an equity instrument that is redeemable at the option of the holder, and with the following characteristics:

- A dual-currency feature, i.e., sold for foreign exchange but payable in pesos at the prevailing guiding rate if and when the investor should wish to sell his equity investment.

- A guaranteed minimum annual cash dividend yield, payable in pesos on the basis of the guiding rate prevailing at the time of issuance.

- Exemption from Philippine taxes on earnings and capital appreciation, and

- Incentives suitable for market target groups, including the satisfaction of financial requirements pertaining to permanent residency status, to passport renewal, or other similar situations.

CSO: 4200/784

CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR FORESEES TIGHTENING CREDIT

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 3 Aug 83 pp 1, 6

[Article by George T. Nervez]

[Text]

OBTAINING loans will continue to be difficult this year.

Central Bank Gov. Jaime C. Laya indicated this yesterday when he said that "monetary authorities will continue to hold down credit, domestic liquidity and foreign debt expansion during the rest of the year."

In a report to the President, Laya said the measures were designed to maintain moderate growth, hence contain inflation; reduce the country's balance of payments (BOP) deficit to manageable levels in 1983.

(The BOP is the total of the country's foreign exchange earnings against expenditures).

IN HIS REPORT, Laya said the initial impact of the world economic recovery was noted on the domestic scene during the first six months of the year.

He noted that the BOP deficit was trimmed down to \$562 million compared to \$680 million in the first semester last year.

Likewise, significant improvements were reported in manufacturing production, sales, and the inflation rate which continued to decelerate, he said.

Laya added that the economy is expected to strengthen its BOP position and maintain a moderate growth as the momentum for global recovery deepens.

"This confidence," he said, "can be achieved through sincere efforts to attain growth within the limits set for credit and domestic liquidity expansion, the control of external debt, and the successful implementation to strategies to build up foreign exchange."

LAYA also said that:

- Preliminary estimates indicate an overall BOP deficit of \$562 million, a 17.4-percent improvement from \$680 million in the first semester of 1982.

- Outstanding fixed-term foreign debt rose by 4.3 percent from the end-December level to \$13.4 billion as of end-June.

- The international reserve stood at \$2.3 billion at end-June 1983, 10.9 percent lower than the end-1982 level. The reserve continued to be equivalent to more than three months' import requirements.

- The peso-dollar exchange rate dropped against the US dollar by about 20 percent, to P11.0015 on June 30, 1983 from P9.171 at end-1982. The peso also dropped in value against other important currencies.

- Total domestic liquidity (money supply plus savings and time deposits and deposit substitutes) to P99.8 billion, up by 13.9 percent from its level in June 1982. However, it represented a deceleration from last year's 17 percent increase.

- Net domestic assets (NDA) as of end-June 1983 expanded at an annual rate of 21.8 percent or an increase of about P10 billion between December and June.

- Net domestic credits during the first semester expanded by P9.4 billion, of which P8.4 billion or 89.1 percent went to the private sector.

- Nominal interest rates on loans and savings deposits remained stable at 18.5 percent and 9.7 percent, respectively.

- The inflation rate decelerated to 6.6 percent from 10.6 percent during the first semester last year. Consumer prices increase were lower in Metro Manila at six percent compared with 6.7 percent in areas outside the region.

- The budgetary deficit for the first semester amounted to P2.5 billion, which was P5.2 billion lower compared with the figure in the same period last year.

- Preliminary indicators from surveys of large manufacturing companies showed a 9.5 percent average increase in the value of manufacturing production, and a 13 percent increase in sales over their respective levels in 1982.

CSO: 4200/784

GOVERNMENT MOVES TO LOWER TEXTILE PRICES

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 3 Aug 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Mario Casayuran]

[Text]

The Bureau of Customs is releasing P100 million worth of seized textile materials in a bid to force down the increasing prices of locally made textile goods in the open market.

Prices of Philippine-made textile materials have shot up by 30 per cent because of devaluation of the peso and the Customs Bureau's anti-smuggling campaign, particularly on textile shipments, according to customs authorities.

The decision to release the textile shipments came in the wake of an order by Trade and Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin to stabilize the prices of textiles.

Arrangements for the turnover by the Customs Bureau of the seized shipments from its warehouses were ironed out yesterday at a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Trade and Industry,

and the newly rejuvenated and now government-owned Agrix corporation.

Agrix will handle the marketing, according to Cmdr. Guillermo L. Parayno, chief of the customs intelligence and investigation division (CIID).

Parayno said he has been instructed by Customs Commissioner Ramon J. Farolan to fix the sale price of the seized textile goods.

Parayno was accompanied by Commo Sekito, Jr., chief of the customs auction and cargo disposal division, in the meeting with the trade ministry and Agrix officials.

The trade ministry was represented by Rodolfo Puna, assistant secretary.

The Customs Bureau's law-enforcement agencies, particularly the CIID, have through the years seized numerous smuggled shipments with an annual average value

of P200 million.

Most of the seized items consisted of textile materials whose inflow had wreaked havoc upon the local textile industry.

Textile millers said they have been forced to increase the price of their products as a result of increased import costs arising from devaluation.

Prices naturally have to go up since the components in the textile production, except labor, are imported, they explained.

Some textile millers, however, had gone into textile smuggling themselves. A few months ago, the CIID seized millions of pesos worth of polyester staple fiber shipments.

The virtual monopoly of Filaya, polyester manufacturer in the country, and its relatively higher domestic price than the imported kind has triggered polyester smuggling, reliable sources said.

Polyester staple fiber and cotton are woven into finished textile fabrics. Most of the smuggled polyester shipments came from Taiwan.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY UNDER FIRE

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 16 Jul 83 p 3

["Point at Issue" column by Bert Tesorero: "NFA, Symbol of Indifference?"]

[Text]

The National Food Authority (NFA) is under fire. But this is not surprising. For a while, during the devastating drought that swept the countryside, the NFA stood like an angel sent from heaven to help the starving farmers affected by the long dry spell. Now, it looms like a paragon of government red-tape, indifference and gross inefficiency.

...

The NFA through its implementing arm, the Emergency Cereal Loan Assistance Program (ECLAP), had resolved to extend cereal loans to rice farmers in drought-ridden areas in Davao at one cavan each for a period of five months starting on April up to August of this year. The purpose of the loan is to keep the farmers in the drought-stricken areas from starving to death or falling smack into the politicalization drive of the subversives among the suburban residents.

...

But hardly had the NFA cereal loan program embarked on its third month when the NFA authorities in Manila stopped the release of cereals to the farmers for reasons unknown to the local government food agency.

Why?

...

Apparently, the NFA Manila authorities believe that since the rains had come, the rice farmers would now start harvesting their palays without having to bother the government further with commodity loans. But this is stupid! Farmers don't harvest the palay from the seedlings they just planted some four weeks ago.

...

What's more, Barangay Captain Erlinda Banaag of Barrio Talanding lamented that the NFA had been very discriminating in the release of cereal loans to the farmers, where some barrio officials received three loan releases in four months, some others were given only once and never again to benefit from the ECLAP program. To Barangay Captain Aquilina Banaag of Barrio Los Anigos, the discriminations of the local NFA office, in effect, is the symbol of "palakasan!"

...

Aside from the influence wielded by some barangay officials on the local NFA officials which brought about the glaring discrimination of the government food agency in the release of cereal loans, Barangay Captain Banaag also attributed the slow processing of loan papers to the inefficiency of the local NFA of-

rice. Miss Banaag pointed out that only two or three employees were given to the task of processing loan papers in the local NFA office to attend to the more than 117 barangay applicants in Davao City.

• • •

There are a hundred and one more irregularities witnessed by the two female barangay officials in the local NFA office which they intimated to this column but which cannot come in print until the revelations are confirmed by documents. But suffice to say, the victims of the last drought in the urban areas have not yet recovered from the effects of the long dry spell and for all we know, they are still starving for lack of cereals despite the coming rains.

• • •

The NFA is the food terminal of the government. It had bound itself to help the drought-stricken farmers with cereal loans through its emergency assistance program and they should keep their promise until the project is wholly completed. Let it not be said that the NFA had embarked on the cereal loan only to cushion the impact of hunger among the rural people affected by the drought. It is more than that! The NFA should primarily prove to the entire constituency that it is a trustworthy arm of the government to help the people and not just a propaganda outfit of the government to fool the people.

DETAINEES TO GO ON FULL HUNGER STRIKE

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 15 Jul 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

Political detainees at the FC Barracks outside currently on their 30th day of fasting are set to go on a full hunger strike even as the military authorities granted one of their demands during a Wednesday dialogue.

Advance copies of a statement issued by relatives of the detainees distributed to newsmen disclosed that the political prisoners "will proceed with the more difficult yet stronger manifestation of protest: a hunger strike." The relatives cited military authorities which allegedly continue to ignore the detainees' demands and basic rights.

Only last Wednesday, Metro-diacon chief Col. Andres Superable approved the detainees' demand for more time for sunning and exercise. Two hours each in the morning and in the afternoon were granted. Five other petitions were also reportedly granted. Strident conditions were, however, imposed according to the mother of one detainee. Among the demands approved with conditions are those involving the return of beds, furniture and tape recorders earlier confiscated by the military after the detainees staged a noise barrage, the preparation of menus, budgeting and cooking of meals, medical services and visiting procedures.

Five other demands were not granted. Among them is the demand to stop the practice of transferring the detainees without court clearances and knowledge of their lawyers and relatives.

The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFD), a church-based human rights group said the relatives of the detainees will seek a dialogue with Col. Superable to thresh out the problems of their kind.

TFD estimates that about 40 detainees will join the full hunger strike. During the on-going fast, detainees eat only six small biscuits each a day. They will take nothing during the hunger strike, according to a TFD worker.

Meanwhile, detained Hilda B. Narciso, one of those holding a protest fast, issued a letter July 9 seeking support to her plight to bring to court certain military men who took turns abusing her during her arrest.

"I have decided to pursue this case not only for myself, but also to vindicate and uphold the dignity of the Filipino women," the rape victim said.

Narciso's case is being handled by members of the Davao Lady Lawyers Association (DALLAS).

REPARATIONS DEMANDED FOR ARBITRARY ARRESTS

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 23 Jul 83 p 4

[Article by Atty. David Ompoc]

[Text] The martial law monster has brought agony and sufferings to many innocent people. The record speaks for itself that hundreds, nay, thousands of our brothers and sisters throughout the archipelago have become victims of arbitrary detention. No matter how you look at it, it is safe to assume that an innocent man who has undergone the horrors of incarceration is most likely not liable to forget his experience. Man by its very nature is vindictive so it is possible that those who suffered the most are nurturing rancor and resentment against the jailors

But revenge as a remedy for a wrong done is a savage act commonly practiced by the beast in the jungles. It cannot settle an old score but it will only perpetuate the feud, hatred and bloodshed among the protagonists. This nation cannot settle in peace and progress if those whose human rights were violated will continually harbor hurt feelings. Wisdom dictates that it would be to our advantage to forget and forgive as a way to heal the deep wounds caused by the martial law poniard.

Yet common sense points out that any peace offering must come from the offender or the aggressor. In this concept, the bill filed by Assemblyman Davide providing just reparations for all those who were illegally jailed is a step in the right direction not only as an atonement of the crime of the state against its citizens but also it is a measure designed to achieve unity and national reconciliation. The problem of funding is not tenable. If the government has money to spend on a rigged referendum or election, there is no reason why it cannot have funds for this particular purpose. Speeches that exhort the people to unite and cooperate for the common good is all hollow and empty unless the government itself translates them into deeds.

CSO: 4200/781

FOOD TRADERS, FARMERS TO GET MORE LOANS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 1 Aug 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

The government said yesterday it will intensify the grant of food trading loans to traders, farmers' groups, and marketing cooperatives nationwide. This is expected to encourage increased production and to stabilize food supply and prices.

The Quedan Guarantee Fund Board (QGFB) reported that P238.65 million in quedan loans have reportedly been released and that more funds will be made available to hit the P400-million loan assistance target for this year.

The quedan board, headed by Food Minister Jesus Tanchanco, said that the P238.65-million loan availment during the first six months of this year was raised to P510.43 million, the total amount of loans extended under the government's

quedan financing program.

QGFB Executive Director Gale Garchitorena pointed out that the stepped-up quedan loan extension would enable the government to hit the P400-million loan target this year and assist private traders and farmers' organizations in intensifying their procurement operations.

Garchitorena said the loans were being extended through 57 participating commercial and rural banks throughout the country.

Garchitorena said the quedan financing program, which enjoys a good repayment record, helps ensure a ready market for farmers and other food producers as well as stabilize food supply and prices.

Under the program, food traders, farmers' groups and marketing cooperatives are extended food trading loans with their food stocks as collateral at a minimal interest of only 10 per cent. (Fred Lobo)

CSO: 4200/780

GOVERNMENT PREDICTS 5.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 30 Jul 83 p 6

[Text]

THE GOVERNMENT predicts a 5.5-percent increase in agricultural production this year until 1987 despite losses suffered in the seven-month drought that hit Bacol, the Visayas and Mindanao.

Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco Jr. said the projected growth rate of 5.5 percent can easily be attained because of an expected 10-percent increase in corn production late this year after an intensification of the Masagana program.

The growth target is contained in a five-year (1983-87) agricultural development program, which the Philippines presented early this month to the World Bank and for which it got a \$300-million loan.

THE GROWTH of the country's livestock and poultry industries, which Tanco predicts at 6.5 percent per year until 1987, will further accelerate local demand for corn as feed ingredient.

Corn is now being commercially planted for feedmills rather than for

human consumption, Tanco said, adding that local corn production increases will help the country lessen its huge balance of payment deficit.

For 1982 alone, the country imported about 342,000 metric tons of yellow corn (used for feeds) worth \$49 million.

This year, however, the Philippines has to import 582,000 metric tons, up by 70.18 percent, because of production declines brought about by the drought and subsequent locust infestations, Tanco added. The increase in corn production will be felt early next year, Tanco said.

The drought has also prompted the government to set back its timetable for corn self-sufficiency from 1984 to 1986, or by 1-1/2 years.

The projected 10-percent increase in corn production, Tanco said, is made possible by the expansion of corn hybrid plantings to take advantage of proven higher yields of hybrids developed by five private seed companies.

CSO: 4200/780

PHILIPPINES

SHORTAGE, 'RAMPANT OVERPRICING' OF SUGAR REPORTED IN REGION 7

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 23 Jul 83 pp 1, 15

[Text] There is a shortage and rampant overpricing of sugar in the towns in Region 7, according to the latest survey by field reporters of the Central Visayas Electric Co-operatives Association (CEVECA).

The CEVECA led by its President, Fr Francisco Silva has been conducting an actual survey on the prevailing overall situation of sugar in the markets throughout the region

The results of the survey were aired yesterday over DYIM during the government radio program "Pulong-Buhat" hosted by Provincial Attorney Delfin Quijano and Monoy Villanueva

According to the on-the spot reports from 8 CEVECA centers, consumers have complained against the limited supply of refined and brown sugar in the retail outlets in the towns.

Refined and brown sugar are also being sold at exorbitant prices way above the ceiling set by the Price Stabilization Council (PSC) which is P4.20 for refined and P3.50 for brown sugar.

In some stores in the northern towns of Cebu, sugar is being sold by ganta which is a clear violation of the present law imposing the metric system and requiring retailers to sell basic commodities by kilo.

Still in other retail outlets, sugar is being repacked in Pinamungahan and Alcantara giving rise to suspicion that traders are short-selling the consumers

In other instances, refined sugar is being sold at P5.70 per kilo in Alcoy while brown sugar is marketed at P4.70 per kilo in Daan Bantayan.

Meanwhile, rice and corn cereals have reportedly disappeared in the public market of Toledo City, it was also learned yesterday.

As this developed, the National Food Authority (NFA) here threatened to install Kadiwa centers in strategic areas in the province.

The Kadiwa centers sell prime commodities at less price than commercial traders who are taking advantage of the period for price adjustments of basic items.

CSO: 4200/781

REFINED SUGAR DISAPPEARS FROM MARKET

Davao City MINDANAO TIMES in English 15 Jul 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] Reduced allocations, panic buying and drought effect are the factors which caused the disappearance of refined sugar from the local markets.

Vicente Toh, a leading sugar trader in Southeastern and Central Mindanao explained that sugar allocations for dealers have been reduced by as much as fifty per cent by the government.

The government took this steps to satisfy the country's export quota and to cash in on the favorable sugar price abroad.

Of the fifty per cent left for local allocations, eighty per cent of these are utilized by industrial sugar users who recently resorted to panic buying. Industrial users are those producing or manufacturing soft drinks, canned fruits and confectionaries.

The twenty percent left are for home consumers.

The drought which hit Mindanao and other parts of the country destroyed cane crops forcing sugar centrals to stop milling for lack of material source.

The Davao del Sur Sugar Mills stopped operations since March, this year while the North Cotabato Sugar Industries ceased operations the following April.

The Victorias Sugar Central, Binalbagan, Bacolod-Murcia and Kalibo sugar mills were reported to cut as much a fifty per cent their daily output for lack of sugar canes.

The sugar centrals are expected to resume milling operations by May, 1984 when this year's planted canes are cut.

CSO: 4200/782

COOKING OIL PRICE RISE

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 30 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

THE PRICE of cooking oil increased anew this week, the second this month, in all Kadiwa stores of the Metro Manila Commission. The new price is P2.95 a bottle (320 ml.), up by 35 centavos from last week. Supermarkets and groceries have priced the same bottle at P3.50.

Augusto Rosales, MMC Kadiwa chief, said the MMC had to increase the price of the commodity because its supplier, the Malabon Oil Company, also upped its prices.

Cooking oil is not included in the items under government-controlled prices.

Suppliers said the supply of copra from which most of the country's cooking oil is derived, is down due to the recent drought.

Reports also said that the Kadiwa

stores of the Food Terminal Inc., were selling only corn oil, which is priced higher than coco-based cooking oil.

ON WHY no stall or store selling pork above the price set by the government has been closed, Metro Manila officials explained that there are loopholes in the decree on price controls.

Officials expressed fear that any closure order on the lone signature of the head of the Price Stabilization Council may give a "smart lawyer" an excuse for filing a suit.

The officials did not explain, however, how this deficiency in the law can be corrected. Meantime, profiteers in the sale of pork go scot-free.

CSO: 4200/780

COCONUT AREAS ARE HEAVILY DAMAGED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 30 Jul 83 p 12

[Text]

Lawyer Vicente T. Uy, president of the Coco-Industry Rationalization Movement of the Philippines, said coconut plantations throughout the country were heavily damaged by Typhoon Bebang, and by the long draught which hit the country recently.

The coconut plantation in Southern Leyte, Southern Luzon and the Bicol region are the areas most adversely affected. Coconut production in these areas have been reduced to only 10 to 20 per cent of their usual production, Uy observed.

He said that coconut industry being a major industry affecting about two-thirds of our population, the national and industry leadership have been called

upon to give top priority to the rehabilitation of the coconut plantations.

Many coconut planters and farmers in these badly affected areas are clamouring for the restoration of the Hybrid Replanting Program which was suspended with the lifting of the coconut levy. The program is most timely now that the favorable rainy weather has come, Uy informed.

He said any undue delay in the replanting program would not only aggravate the depressed economic condition of a great mass of our people, but would result in the shift of oil substitutes of other countries to the prejudice of our coconut products in the world market.

CSO: 4200/780

GENERAL INVOLVED IN CAR THEFTS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 1 Aug 83 p 40

[Article by Ramon Tulfo]

[Excerpt]

That Armed Forces general who was featured in this space July 29 for his alleged involvement in some carnaping cases in Metro Manila is unpopular among his peers. A fellow general writes:

"We in the AFP more or less know who this General is. He is the man Friday of a very ranking AFP General, his Godfather. No amount of investigation will stop him. He can always justify this as part of an intelligence project to flush out carnapers. But we know better. His promotion to general has become the biggest surprise in the AFP although we had anticipated it."

. . .

The letter, which was signed "An active general," asks us to identify that particular general in this column to remove the cloud of suspicion on the other AFP generals. "I know the effect of this news on the other generals in the AFP. Already, we can feel the suspecting eyes of our peers, our subordinate officers, our friends, relatives and the public in general," says the worried general. If only we could name that particular general without incurring a libel suit!

. . .

The press has exposed the alleged illegal activities of this general. The next move should come from the Armed Forces' high command.

. . .

A minor traffic accident at the intersection of España and Vicente Cruz streets recently made pedestrians and other motorists shake their heads in utter exasperation. An Air Force jeep (plate No. SAD 577) bumped the rear of a Colt Galant car which stopped on a red light. Instead of stopping, the jeep sped away. "Militar kas! (It's military, that's why)," comments a motorist who wrote us. For the faults of a few members, the whole military establishment is unfairly condemned.

MINING FIRMS POST GAINS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 3 Aug 83 p 9

[Text] TWO mining companies yesterday reported a turn-around in their operations during the first half of this year, showing a clear indication that recovery may be on the way for the local mining industry.

Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. said its first semester net profits reached P94 million on net operating revenues of P1.2 billion.

On a per share basis, net earnings this year reached P1.127 as against losses of P3.080 last year.

Meantime, Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. reported that it posted some P56.8 million in consolidated net gains during the first of this year. This was a reversal of the P25.3 million losses incurred in the same period last year.

The mining division contributed P55.8 million to the consolidated profit. Last year, this division incurred a loss of P24.98 million.

Consolidated gross revenues hit P307.2 million compared with P233.6 million last year.

CARLOS Palanca Jr., company president, said the improved performance of Lepanto was due to higher prices of copper, gold and silver.

He added company production reached 31,233 DST of copper concentrates or higher than last year's 30,324 DST. The copper and silver contents rose by 1.30 percent and 22.05 percent, respectively.

Among its subsidiaries, only the lumber company continued to suffer losses because of depressed prices and demand, Palanca said.

CSO: 4200/784

NEW RETAIL PRICE FOR RICE

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 3 Aug 83 pp 1, 6

[Text]

STARTING this week, rice will now be retailed at a uniform price of P3.10 per kilo, the ceiling set by the government, in some 45,000 licensed retail outlets all over the country.

The uniform retail price was fixed after the National Food Authority decided late last week to increase its wholesale price of rice by five pesos per 50-kilo bag.

According to the NFA, the new wholesale prices of 50-kilo bags will be P145 for well-milled (unfermented) and P140 for well-milled class with minimal fermentation. For delivered purchases, the NFA will add two pesos per bag to cover transportation costs. . . .

NFA OFFICIALS said that pressures from the market have prompted the agency to increase the wholesale price to help maintain a healthy and competitive trading of the staple food.

NFA prices are usually P10 or P15 lower per bag than prices quoted by private traders. But when the private sector started raising the wholesale price by almost P10 to about

P148 to P152 per bag, more pressure was exerted on the NFA to follow to lessen the gap between the government selling price and that of the private sectors.

Officials said that it is not the intention of the NFA to intervene in the market to the prejudice of the private trading sector. . . .

NFA FIGURES showed that the 45,000 retail outlets all over the country, including the Kadiwa, the NFA's marketing arm, dispose a total of 114,000 bags daily. In Metro Manila, about 13,000 bags are disposed by the agency through licensed retailers and the Kadiwa.

Deputy NFA administrator Pablo V. Pablo Jr., said that the increase in wholesale price will not readily affect the buying public since only retailers will be affected as their usual margins of P15 to P20 per bag will be reduced to P10.

He said that the ceiling price will remain at P3.10.

CSO: 4200/784

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

CONFESSION OF CHINESE SPY MADE PUBLIC

Hanoi TIEN PHONG in Vietnamese 12-18 Jul 83 p 3

[Article by Duong Vu: "The Confession"]

[Text] They were captured by troops and militiamen from M.L. Village in H.L. District, Cao Bang Province, one day in late 1982 at the foot of P.N. Mountain, which lies deep within the territory of Vietnam. Their hands were bound before the three of them had a chance to get rid of the weapons and "psychological warfare" goods they were carrying.

At the K.B. Detention Camp, after many ingenious attempts to deny who they actually were, these Chinese commandoes and spies impersonating merchants were forced to confess their crimes.

Below is an excerpt from the confession of Ma T.K., the 23 year old leader of the group:

"...I, Nong X.Q. and Ma K.X. are armed militiamen from the Kim Long Commune in Long Chau District, Quang Tay Province. Between February and October of this year, I was sent to Vietnam six times by the Long Chau Public Security Department. This time, the seventh time, I was captured. The two other persons in my group have crossed the border four or five times. Before going into Vietnam for the first time, persons such as I always attend a training class. The three of us were among the persons who attended a short-term, 3 month class held in Nam Ninh. 'Semi-professional' types such as I study many things, from marksmanship and dagger throwing to the methods of propagandizing, winning over and dividing the ranks of the opposition. Back in China, the talk is that very many such classes are being held. The ones that last for 3 or 4 years are no doubt classes for 'professionals.'

During our most recent trips, our area of operation has been M.L. Village, B.C. Village and L.Q. Village in H.L. District, Cao Bang Province. This time, our primary mission was to use merchandise to buy and win over Vietnamese and establish a base of China in Vietnam. Our main targets are the key cadres of the villages. De Lung and Mui Pet (personnel of the Long Chau Public Security Department) always instructed us: 'When you take a thermos bottle to Vietnam, it must be for four purposes: first to reconnoiter the opposition; secondly,

to extract information from the opposition; thirdly, to disrupt the market prices of the opposition; and fourthly, to cause the opposition to destroy one another!' Some of the merchandise in China is less expensive than in Vietnam and some is more expensive. However, in order to win people over, sow disorder and establish a base in Vietnam, we were ordered to sell goods at very low prices, sometimes even give them away.

In addition to getting information from, propagandizing and provoking Vietnamese everywhere and at all times, we were also given the mission of finding ways to place people from China in the various agencies within H. District. Our superiors told us that if we succeeded in doing this, we would be paid much money, that 'the greatest happiness of a youth at this time is to cause Vietnam to shed much blood,' that 'we must hate Vietnam to the very marrow of our bone because Vietnam is in the camp of the Soviet Union...'

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

ETHNIC YOUTHS PARTICIPATE IN BORDER SECURITY EFFORT

Hanoi TIEN PHONG in Vietnamese 12-18 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by P.V.(Reporter): "Ethnic Youths Unite in Building and Protecting the Border"]

[Text] The youths of the ethnic minorities in the seven provinces of Quang Ninh, Lang Son, Ha Tuyen, Hoang Lien Son, Cao Bang, Son La and Lai Chau are engaged in intense emulation to accelerate the movement of "youths united in building and protecting the northern border."

In the recent past (since the "Youth United in Building and Protecting the Northern Border" Conference held in November, 1982), Youth Union installations have educated thousands of Youth Union members and youths of the ethnic minorities and encouraged them to voluntarily join the combat alert militia teams, border defense forces or the local army. Tens of thousands of Youth Union members and youths have built bases, combat villages and district military fortresses, such as Binh Lieu District in Quang Ninh Province, Cao Loc District in Lang Son Province and Phong Tho District in Lai Chau Province.

In the seven mountain provinces along the northern border, according to incomplete data, more than 1,000 "shock youth security" units have been established, units which consist of more than 5,000 cadres, Youth Union members and youths and have effectively struggled against the schemes, tricks and actions of the enemy to encroach upon and occupy land, create disruptions and commit sabotage along the border. At many places in Quang Ninh, Cao Bang and Hoang Lien Son Provinces, there is a "youths are the masters of the border" movement; the Youth Union detachments and chapters regularly coordinate with the public security forces and army troops to maintain political security and social order and safety within each mountain village, agency, enterprise and school. At the same time, they have been implementing the social contracts they have entered into regarding security and order along the border and regarding the disciplined and civilized style of life.

To date, in the seven northern mountain border provinces, nearly 100 percent of the troop and public security units there have established brotherhoods with local youths and 100 percent of the border defense posts have established brotherhoods with the village Youth Union organizations along the border.

Practically all of the units that are participating in brotherhoods have adopted activity programs and signed emulation pledged among the three forces (youths, public security personnel and troops). Through the coordination of these three forces, hundreds of brotherhood projects have been carried out to support combat operations, production, everyday life and learning, thereby helping to build and protect the border.

At the conference held to conduct a preliminary review of the "youths united in building and protecting the northern border" movement recently held by the Youth Union Central Committee, the Ministry of Interior and the Border Defense Troop Command in Lang Son City, the Youth Union cadres and delegates who attended the conference discussed and debated measures and forms of activity for continuing to accelerate the emulation movement designed to organize and mobilize youths to win victory over the multifaceted war of sabotage being waged by the Beijing reactionaries.

The conferees also debated and reached unanimous agreement concerning the guidelines and tasks of the various levels of the Youth Union and the three forces (youths, public security personnel and troops) during the final 6 months of 1983, the purpose of which is to continue to accelerate the "youth united in building and protecting the northern border" emulation movement.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

EFFORTS TO STEM INFLUX OF 'CRIMINAL CULTURAL PRODUCTS' DESCRIBED

Hanoi TIEN PHONG in Vietnamese 12-18 Jul 83 p 4

[Article by Hong Tuyen: "Criminal 'Gifts'"]

[Text] The Criminal Cultural Products

One day in May, 1983, when the first storm of the season had subsided, I accompanied a group of soldiers from the Office of Cultural Security of the Ho Chi Minh public security sector down to the vicinity of the "Y" Bridge in the 8th Precinct. During the previous night, soldiers of the patrol unit of the 8th Precinct Public Security Force had thwarted an attempt in this area to illegally flee the country by sea when a barge carrying a few dozen persons was detected as it was about to leave the mouth of the Saigon River and head out to sea. The soldiers of the patrol stopped the barge. Taking advantage of the cover of darkness, a number of leaders of the persons on the barge abandoned the barge in an attempt to flee and a number of others panicked and hastily followed them, one of whom could not be saved and drowned. The remaining persons were rescued by the members of the patrol. The barge was then towed to shore where, among the material evidence of the persons who were attempting to illegally flee the country, I noticed the following several items: two Bic pens made in the United States on which were painted the pictures of naked women, a collection of color photographs of Vietnamese who had emigrated to the United States as they celebrated the Quy Hoi Tet amidst "prosperity" and "luxury"... There was a newspaper called "FREE VIETNAM"--the organ of the so called "Society of Patriotic Overseas Vietnamese"(which is actually a bunch of reactionaries who owe blood debts to the people) in which was printed a report by one Le Van describing the "comfort," "happiness" and "prosperity" of the Vietnamese who have emigrated to foreign countries. The article concluded with a brazen appeal to "the beloved sons and daughters of the land of Viet" to "leave the communist world" in order to "find freedom." Also printed in the paper were the addresses of a few centers that receive emigres in a number of western countries and the address of the so called "Seekers of Freedom Aid Organization" in one state in the United States. How very "thoughtful"! Are such illusory things enough to entice cowards who only want to enjoy themselves...into leaving the fatherland? On the barge, I asked one of the persons who was rescued, H.V.L., a man of about 40 years of age whose face still had the look of someone who had just narrowly escaped death:

"Do you have any relatives in the United States or West Germany?"

"No, sir, I do not!"

"Were you definitely leaving in search of some kind of happiness?"—I asked as I showed him the color photographs but H.V.L. merely bowed his head and said nothing in reply. I then asked:

"The weather is very dangerous this time of year and death is always a threat. Why weren't you afraid?"

"Sir, I have the Buddha to protect me," he replied in a manner expressing reverence and belief and drew from his breast pocket a color picture that was very carefully wrapped in a piece of nylon. It was a picture of a boat drifting about at sea, on board which were dozens of persons, all of whom had their heads raised skyward in prayer. Above them, beneath a glistening halo, there was the face of a person sitting on Buddha's throne, his hands raised to perform a miracle. On the back of the photo was the inscription: "The Nam Hai Buddha assists those who go in search of freedom" and the date that the photograph was taken. It was another product of cultural crime. I asked H.V.L.:

"Why do you have this photograph?"

"A Chinese person in Cho Lon sold it to me for 500 dong and told me that it is a talisman that will protect my life in times of danger."

And, there is another problem at hand: by which methods, by which routes do all these things, these "cultural" products filled with crime—please note that the word is enclosed in quotation marks—infiltrate our life? These questions that have been raised always follow closely on the heels of each step we take toward understanding the situation.

The Poisonous Tentacles of the Octopus

The "Air France" plane landed at Tan Son Nhat Airport as usual. In keeping with procedures, the incoming passengers had to submit to an inspection by customs personnel and cadres of the Printed Materials and Cultural Products Office of the Ho Chi Minh City Culture and Information Service. That day, as usual, the customs and cultural cadres were working very intensely and thoroughly. And, inside the briefcase of one of the passengers, they found several pieces of paper, inside of which were wrapped several three-stripe flags (of the entombed puppet regime) and a few English language written by emigres. Thus, some criminal "gifts" had been found and promptly stopped thanks to the vigilance of the cadres stationed at the gateways to our country.

Since the total liberation of the South and the reunification of our fatherland, the humanitarian policy of our party and state has enabled persons who have relatives in foreign countries to receive goods from and send goods to them. In particular, there are regulations that permit these people to receive gift packages from overseas at regular intervals. This policy

reflects the concern of the state for the feelings and the living conditions of a portion of our people. At the same time, the economic relations, cultural, scientific and technical relations and tourist relations between our country--Ho Chi Minh City included--and the other countries of the world are also being expanded and becoming more diverse. The post-telegraph sector has also established the exchange of letters, postal matter and packages with more than 150 countries of the world. In the present day world, these relations are normal to every country. The powers that are hostile to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam abuse these channels to wage "cultural war" against us and send into our country in great quantities various types of poisonous, reactionary and decadent cultural products by both legal and illegal channels in a vain attempt to poison the spirit of our people, especially our youths, by directing them to the high power radio stations that broadcast programs filled with provocative arguments and distortions of the new life in our country and encourage persons to illegally flee the country by sea. According to our statistics, in Ho Chi Minh City alone, there are about 1,000 families that receive cultural products from foreign countries and more than 2,000 families that send cultural products to foreign countries each month. Since the start of 1983, nearly 300 units of harmful cultural products have been stopped from entering our country each month. They come in two ways: along with incoming passengers and inside postal material and packages. The people who bring and send them are artful and cunning and look for every way to evade detection by cadres. These cadres find bunches of unwound and crumpled cassette tape stuffed around goods, which are explained away as "only packing material" by the recipient. They patiently wind these hundreds of meters of tape onto a machine and play the tape to determine its content. Aha, it's a long "anti-communist poem" with reactionary sounding words and yellow music that provokes promiscuous behavior. There are dozens of brand new cassette tapes that seem to have not yet been used to record something and which, when played, actually contain nothing. But careful examination reveals that the tape on the cassette had been turned over and the back side was actually the "real thing"; when these cadres rewind and play this tape, they find that they were not wrong--it contains a criminal "gift." Sometimes, there is not a sound on either side of the tape. The person who arrives to receive it explains that "it is a new tape sent to record revolutionary music or something like that." But, wait a minute, why would anyone send a new, blank cassette? Thinking about this, they discovered another cunning trick: the persons arriving to take delivery of these tapes had received letters in advance and knew that the tapes were being sent to them; so, they prepared a number of new, blank tapes, hid them on their person and went to pick up their goods. After the completion of the customs inspection and while walking over to the spot where the cultural security inspection is conducted, they take advantage of this time to substitute the tape sent to them with a new, blank tape. Of course, this "sleight of hand" is promptly detected. Sometimes, a tape seems to contain nothing but family conversation; however, when patiently played through to its completion a few pieces of "yellow" music from the bygone times of Khanh Ly and Thanh Thuy are brought back to life at the end of the tape. In addition, there are piles of reactionary newspapers from emigres camouflaged as layers of packing paper placed around goods "to prevent them from breaking" in an attempt to make it through the points of entry to our country. Reactionary emigres in the western countries, mostly in the United States have published roughly 70 reactionary newspaper and

journals, more than a dozen of which have showed up at entry points on their way into our country, such as VAN NGHE TIEN PHONG, TRANG DEN, VIETNAM TRUONG TON, VIETNAM TU DO, CHUONG SAIGON and so forth. Then, there are the pornographic magazines from the United States and France. Cultural items with decadent, provocative pictures and books on astrology and fortune telling also accompany the baggage that arrives by air and sea or arrives by routes used by smugglers looking for ways to infiltrate our country. Consider the case of the large "electronic" pen that was fastened to the shirt pocket of an incoming passenger. On it was the picture of several properly dressed young ladies. At first glance, there was nothing worthy of attention about this pen and nothing was found when it was opened for a closer examination but, when the pen was turned upside down, the clothing on the young women and disappeared and what remained, of course, were decadent and provocative images. Such are the criminal "gifts."

When we examined the journal kept by the cadres who inspect books being exported and imported, we clearly saw that the enemy is always searching for way to send harmful cultural products into our country. They operate in a bold fashion and spare no expense:

--On 9 March 1983, inside a package being sent to V.D.V. in Binh Thanh District, 200 leaflets printed on high quality paper that distorted our system and encouraged an uprising to start a rebellion were found.

--On 9 September 1982, an inspection of the baggage of a passenger at Tan Son Nhat Airport arriving from Singapore revealed 9 three-stripe flags, hundreds of meters of crumpled cassette tape on which provocative and decadent songs had been recorded.

And so it goes, day in, day out... The silent fight being waged by the cultural security and control personnel at the points of entry to our country to defeat the sinister schemes of the enemy has protected the purity of our life.

Exposing the Sinister Dens to the Light

Before me was Ngo Kim Luong, the owner of a private printing and taped music recording shop in the 15th Subward of Tan Binh District in Ho Chi Minh City. It was a shop that "advertised one thing but sold another." On the outside, it was a place that recorded revolutionary music and the new reform classical opera but, on the inside, it was a sinister den, a place containing reactionary, decadent types of music that was recorded using the most modern equipment and was circulated secretly within the city. At 900 hours on 3 June 1983, the city's cultural inspection unit suddenly burst into the recording shop of Ngo Kim Luong and arrested him in the act of copying several tapes of decadent music. A preliminary inspection of the scene revealed 553 tapes of reactionary and decadent music of various types, including some that only infiltrated our country very recently. Now, Ngo Kim Luong, his hand trembling, was signing the report and sitting there with his head bowed.

During the recent days and months, dozens of sinister dens that stored and circulated reactionary and decadent cultural products of various types have

been brought out into the light in the various areas of Ho Chi Minh City. In the 25th Subward of the 10th Precinct, an administrative inspection of the coffee-music houses within the subward resulted in the confiscation of nearly 200 types of unwholesome music, which consisted primarily of decadent music and some types of "enigre music," the kind heard on the Phuong Nga, Nguyen Anh Program and Hung Cuong's "Singing To Bring Them Home," which are extremely reactionary. At the coffee-music houses at numbers 268 and 270 Bac Hai Street, number 437 Cach Mang Thang Tam Road and so forth, reactionary and decadent music tapes were mixed among revolutionary tapes in a vain attempt to conceal them. It is quite clear that, given their hostile attitude toward the new life and their unbridled greed, the sinister dens mentioned above are actually centers for deceiving and disseminating the criminal "gifts" that are trying to infiltrate our country. Coordinating the attack from the outside with the attack from within, this is the scheme of the enemy, of the sinister powers that are waging the multifaceted war of sabotage against the Vietnamese revolution, which includes the front of culture, literature and art. And, it is also clear that the effort to stop the harmful cultural products that look for every way to pass through the points of entry to our country requires close coordination with the routine inspection and breakup of the disguised dens that store reactionary, decadent music and the reactionary, decadent coffee-music houses. Within our country, including Ho Chi Minh City, this work must be carried out in a well coordinated manner with the participation of many responsible levels, sectors and mass organizations. N.T.H., a cadre in charge of the Printed Materials and Cultural Products Export-Import Office of the Ho Chi Minh City Culture-Information Service told us:

"We consider exchanges, cultural exchange included, with the outside world to be very necessary. However, we must be very vigilant, must always be alert to promptly stopping and defeating the malicious scheme being pursued by the enemy in a vain attempt to oppose and undermine the development of our country's revolution. Facts have proven that it is correct for us to be vigilant and that we have promptly prevented numerous decadent and harmful cultural products from entering our fatherland. In my opinion, we must conduct research in order to adopt a plan for further strengthening the forces that perform this inspection and control work; moreover, should not the agencies, sectors and mass organizations that are concerned with this problem coordinate in research and in activities within a common organization?"

These days, the enemy will not leave us alone; poison tipped cultural arrows are being fired by them at our country every minute of every hour in a vain attempt to sabotage our wholesome cultural life and our socialist construction. Stopping and destroying these criminal "gifts" is the responsibility of each person, including our youths.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

ILLEGAL DEALINGS IN TEXTILE FIBERS UNCOVERED

Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese 7 Jul 83 p 7

[Article: "Where Did 45 Tons of Fiber Go?"]

[Text] The market management unit of Precinct 11 stopped a truck that was illegally carrying 798 kilos of peco fiber. After discovering the fiber the economic police unit of Precinct 11 investigated and learned about the illegal selling of 45 tons of peco and nylon fiber by Le Van The, head of both the Phuc Loi textile production team in Subward 10, Precinct 11 and the Phuc Loi textile production team in Subward 1, Precinct 10. From that illegal transaction Le Van The received a very large sum of money: 7,578,100 dong.

What was Le Van The's scheme? In accordance with contract No 4, he colluded with the Da Nang Maritime Products Export Corporation to buy fiber, and sold on the black market 30,472 kilos of peco fiber. That contract was in fact "a contract to sell fiber in a camouflaged contracted-out form" between the Da Nang Maritime Products Export Corporation and Le Van The's Phuc Loi production team. Furthermore, Le Van The's Phuc Loi textile team did not weave textiles. Instead, he bought cloth on the free market and resold it to the Da Nang Maritime Products Export Corporation.

Contract No 2, signed by the Phuc Loi production team and "Terimech" (the Export Corporation of Precinct 3, Ho Chi Minh City) was also truly strange. According to that contract, Terimech would sell to the Phuc Loi textile team 2,000 kilos of peco fiber and purchase from it 15,600 meters of KT cloth. In fact, Terimech sold to Le Van The's Phuc Loi textile team 1,814 kilos of fiber and Le Van The then sold the fiber on the free market for profit, for at that time the price of the fiber was high. Terimech still could not buy the cloth because Le Van The's textile team had no more fiber and thus had no cloth!

According to contract No 149, Nha-Bi-Mech (the Nha Be Export-Import Corporation) would sell 7,000 kilos of fiber to the Phuc Loi textile team, which would in turn sell to Nha-Bi-Mech 9,000 meters of coarse satin cloth. In fact, Nha-Bi-Mech sold the fiber but couldn't buy a single meter of satin cloth.

By means of such contracts, Le Van The sold 45 tons of fiber on the free market at a profit. The profit obtained for the 45 tons of fiber amounted to more than 7 million dong. He was arrested for the crimes of engaging in illegal commerce, not keeping books as required by the tax bureau, taking advantage of

loopholes in economic contracts with the state organs, and colluding with negative elements to obtain raw materials with which to disturb market management and prices. He was ordered to pay 5,916,330 dong in taxes. Another matter that cannot be overlooked was that a private individual, Le Van The, who was at the same time the head of two textile production teams in two different subwards in two different precincts, violated the statutes of the handicraft cooperative teams.

As for the Da Nang Maritime Products Export Corporation, the Nha Be Import-Export Corporation, and the Precinct 3 Export-Import Corporation, what did their leadership and management cadres think?

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

WOMAN ARRESTED FOR DEALING ILLEGALLY IN ICE

Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese 7 Jul 83 p 7

[Article by Hoa Lu: "A House Costing 32 Taels of Gold Arises From Ice"]

[Text] An adult woman stood outside the gate of Frozen Goods Export Corporation No 1 on Binh Thoi Street. For several years she had often stood by the enterprise's gate. When a customer arrived she only needed to write a few words on a small piece of paper, sign it, and hand it to the customer. The customer would give the paper to the warehouse keeper of Frozen Goods Export Enterprise No 1. When he saw that it was an order for block ice signed by Dang Thi Hy -- the woman who stood outside the enterprise's gate -- the warehouse keeper issued the ice.

Trucks entered to pick up the ice and take it to agents all over the city, and even in the outskirts. That collusion in the selling of blackmarket ice by Hy, who had been an ice dealer under the old regime (on Ong Ich Kiem Street in Precinct 11), brought in large profits for her over a period of several years. With that illegal income, Dang Thi Hy was able to build a three-story house which cost 32 taels of gold.

Why did Hy, an experienced ice merchant, fall into the net? Acting on tips from the people, workers, and trade unions in the precinct, the economic police unit of Precinct 11 set a trap. Truc and Van, reconnaissance policemen, caught two trucks in the act of transporting blackmarket ice. After he was arrested, truck driver Hao (licence number 55B0205) offered a bribe of 950 dong, but Truc and Van made out a report so that he could be brought to justice.

At Frozen Goods Export Enterprise No 1 the reconnaissance police on 8 May 1983 caught Hy in the act of paying for 200 blocks of ice she had arranged to buy. I read the confession Hy made to the economic police unit of Precinct 11: "Every day, on the average I buy from Frozen Goods Export Enterprise No 1 about 300 blocks of ice weighing 50 kilos each....I've been in business since May 1980....Every day I go to the enterprise, negotiate prices, and pay for the ice after it is issued. When customers arrive to buy ice I stand at the gate and write permits for them so that they can obtain the block ice at the enterprise's warehouse....I once sold ice to fishing boats and in the provinces."

This year the weather has been hot, so the price of ice has at times risen to 700 to 800 dong per 50-kilo block. Controlling the supply of ice, Hy made big

profits. Between July 1982 and May 1983 alone, by dealing in blackmarket ice and evading taxes Hy made a profit of more than 5 million dong (according to an estimate by the economic police unit of the Precinct 11 public security forces).

Hy was arrested, had to pay confiscatory taxes, and is awaiting trial for collusion. As for Frozen Goods Export Enterprise No 1, that deficiency was very great and it must be strictly punished.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

HO CHI MINH CITY, KIEN GIANG PROVINCE OPEN JOINT STORES

Hanoi DOC LAP in Vietnamese 13 Jul 83 p 6

[Article by Anh Xuan: "In the 'Joint Operation' Stores"]

[Text] Several weeks ago there was set up at the An Dong market (in the pork section) a very prosperous store selling fresh meat which bore the sign "Kien Giang-Precinct 5 Joint Agricultural Products-Food Store." There are more than 10 such stores, which are always crowded with customers.

Since the beginning of the second quarter market prices, including pork prices, have increased. There are many reasons for the increases, one of the most important of which is that the amount of pork supplied to the city has steadily decreased (in part because of transportation difficulties and in part because of local partialism).

In order to resolve that situation, Ho Chi Minh City has adopted the policy of undertaking joint operations with the provinces, in which the two parties carry out commercial operations in each other's territory, which is a new form of "exchange" or "two-way contracts."

Carrying out that policy, recently Precinct 5 established commercial ties with Kien Giang Province. The two localities have set up jointly operated stores on a trial basis. For example, Kien Giang has opened a fresh pork store at the An Dong market and will open another butcher shop at the Hoa Binh market. Precinct 5 has opened a manufactured goods store in Kien Giang.

By entering into joint commercial operations with Kien Giang, Precinct 5 has created a source of foodstuffs to sell on its market. In the first phase alone, Precinct 5 brought in 32 tons of live pork and more than 300,000 duck eggs.

According to estimates of the Precinct 5 food sector, with the "joint operations" meat the precinct can supply half a kilo of meat and 10 eggs per person to the collective mess halls and an average of a kilo of meat per person per month to the households.

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TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

PROBLEM OF LATE TRAINS DISCUSSED

Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese 7 Jul 83 pp 1, 3

[Article by Tat Khue: "Why Are the Trains Late? Can the Problem Be Overcome?]

[Text] "Vietnamese trains travel the four seasons around. On the Hai Van Pass clouds fly by the mountain top."

How beautiful are our trains! Many songs have been written about them.

When we were sitting in class in the village school we hastily and quietly put away our books when we heard the train whistle, for we knew that school would soon be out. Early in the morning, when they heard the sound of the train going the other way the people in my village woke one another up so that they could make breakfast and feed the pigs, by which time the rising sun has just lighted everyone's faces. Getting up when the train passed became a habit. Parents usually used the outward and inward trains to remind the children, who often forgot all about time when they were playing: "Wake up son, the inward bound train has long since passed and you'll be late for school," etc. The image of cadres and workers at the railroad station wearing grey-colored uniforms and red arm bands, and holding signal flags as they worked, created a very deep impression of orderliness on us.

The interesting thing was that that virtue appeared to belong to many people. Now, especially in recent years and months, when I have had the occasion to travel by train I often hear strangers sitting nearby compare that situation with the present railroad stations and trains, with a feeling of anger and resentment toward the laxity and decline. In the railroad stations there is disorder and filth, passengers eat and lie about everywhere, there are thieves and con men, people jostle one another about, and all sorts of blackmarket tickets are sold. That is not all: after buying a ticket there is the question of whether one will be able to board the train. There are even more worries if one travels at night. Accustomed to late trains, the passengers often console one another: "Whether the train moves or not is up to it" and "As long as we get back home, it's better than walking."

Why Do the Trains Arrive Late?

You may be surprised to learn that we don't have a shortage of trains. On paper, the railroad sector has 370 locomotives of all kinds. But in fact, half

are over-age. The rest, to put it correctly, are patched up so that they can be used. The central Vietnam railroad department had 58 Rumanian locomotives, but now it has only 10 locomotives operating at less than full capacity. The same is true in the other areas. The railroad sector has no facilities for repairing, or carrying out medium or major overhauls on, locomotives. The Hanoi, Chi Hoa, Yen Bai, and other locomotive departments are only capable of carrying out maintenance (a railroad term meaning washing and adjusting). The Gia Lam railroad shop is the only facility capable of carrying out major repairs on one-meter gauge steam locomotives, but for years it has not been fully utilized. We have no facilities for producing diesel locomotive parts. In many cases a locomotive is still usable but must be deadlined because of a few broken parts. There is a shortage of boxcars and many of them are old and decrepit. Of the boxcars now in use, 50 percent are due for repairs but cannot be sent to the shop because they are needed for the daily transportation missions. Not only are there insufficient boxcars, but the consignees do not correctly observe the contracts and are slow in unloading the boxcars. In some places the boxcars are even used as warehouses, so the planned turnaround time norm is not met, which results in an even more tense situation with regard to transportation facilities.

It is also necessary to mention that the quality of the railroads and bridges is too low, which considerably affects the speed of trains. Of the more than 1,000 kilometers of the Thong Nhat line, only 40 kilometers fully meet the technical standards. The rest are in the category of requiring repairs. If it makes all-out efforts throughout 1983, the sector could only repair 100 kilometers of track (to carry out repairs it is necessary to have rocks, ties, piles, ballast, labor, funds, etc.). Failure over a period of many years to invest in the construction of signal systems, railroad stations, and storage yards has also directly and indirectly affected the speeds of trains. Other than a few large stations, there are now 145 railroad stations which were not built in correct accordance with technical standards.

Those are the objective reasons, but they alone are not sufficient to convince everyone why the trains are slow. The people in the sector and the people in general have noticed another factor which considerably affects that situation: the relaxation of management, which leads to a lack of awareness of mastery on the part of many cadres and workers in the sector. There is a shortage of coal and oil for the locomotives, but some train operators sell coal and oil on the outside. One day a family at the Dong Van railroad station was using railroad briquette coal to cook a meal. They said that since coal was only 5 dong per piece, why not use it for cooking? Diesel oil is also sold. In a very large number of cases boxcar equipment is stolen, which renders many boxcars unusable because they lack safety equipment. In many instances, when Thong Nhat trains are about to enter the Hanoi railroad station they stop and merchants throw their wares off the train. The same is true at Hai Phong, Vinh, Da Nang, and Binh Trieu. At one time (and it is probably still true), when the Thong Nhat trains arrived at railroad stations in the south they were turned into markets. A number of personnel aboard the trains have openly or secretly participated in the commercial activities. Then there are the evils of arrogance, partiality

in selling tickets, regarding passengers as trash, and cramming people into passenger cars. Unable to breathe, they have to climb up onto the roof or hang onto the car on the outside.

For 4 consecutive years -- from 1979 to 1982 -- the railroad sector failed to fulfill its plan. Even more harmful is the fact that the declining discipline and work quality will continue to have a harmful effect for many years in the future.

A question that must be posed is whether, under the present circumstances and with the present material bases, it will be possible to fulfill the transportation mission, which makes very great demands and a return to the disciplined, effective work style.

There Is An Answer

First of all, it is necessary to mention the results attained in fulfilling the plan for the first 6 months of 1983, beginning with the time when the railroad sector reorganized its production and working methods.

During the first 6 months of this year the railroad sector fulfilled 50.8 percent of its annual plan. In other words, there was a great increase over the same period last year. It must be said that that was possible not because of additional facilities, for the sector had the same numbers of locomotives, boxcars, routes, cadres, and workers. That means that after reorganizing production the cadres and workers in the sector, realizing their responsibilities and rights, endeavored to do a good job of fulfilling their missions.

I observed that at the Hanoi Locomotive Department and many other places. The Hanoi Locomotive Department is responsible for maintaining the locomotives and railroad cars on the Hanoi, Hai Phong, Thai Nguyen, Thanh Hoa, and Dong Mo routes. Ensuring that there were sufficient high-quality locomotives to meet the schedule, as they had pledged to the sector trade union, was difficult enough, but after they reviewed their existing capabilities, along with everyone else the cadres and workers of the Hanoi Locomotive Department volunteered to accept an additional mission: sending their locomotives beyond their normal limits, from Thanh Hoa to Cau Giat and Thanh Hoa-Vinh. In other words, when the Vinh Locomotive Department lacked locomotives the Hanoi Locomotive Department sent three of its locomotives to help its friends on the Thanh Hoa-Cau Giat-Vinh route. Such was the movement to "send locomotives beyond the limit." In addition, the Yen Vien Subdepartment was expanded and in mid-June officially accepted the additional mission of repairing three locomotives, which contributed to resolving the sector's difficulties.

The railroad sector's turnaround time for locomotives and railroad cars is still high, which has led to a tense situation with regard to locomotives and railroad cars. Speeding up the turnaround time of locomotives and railroad cars is the second method for resolving that difficulty. In the past, the Hanoi-Hai Phong passenger trains traveled only 200 kilometers a day, but now efforts are being made to attain 300 kilometers a day. During the past 6 months many similar feats have been accomplished. As a result, locomotive efficiency

has increased and additional locomotives are available for other tasks. In order to accomplish that, it was necessary to achieve effective operation. For example, previously it took 2 or 3 hours, or even longer, to inspect locomotives or to load coal or water. Now the emulation norm of the department and sector is 90 minutes.

The norm regarding the safe, on-schedule operation of trains is a combined norm and is an emulation norm which involves the participation of many elements, trades, and people in the sector. In fact, during the past 6 months the passenger trains on the Hanoi-Hai Phong route -- the guidance point of the railroad trade union -- have answered the above-mentioned question: under the present conditions regarding railroad stations, trains, and tracks, it is possible for trains to keep on schedule and do a better job of serving passengers. On that route trains depart on schedule 91.6 percent of the time and arrive on schedule 79.3 percent of the time. At night the railroad cars have lights, the trains are fast, and passengers have seats. Those exemplary trains have stimulated many other routes. The Hanoi-Nam Dinh express train is an example.

The railroad stations are also undergoing transformations in order to keep up with the trains. Many passengers have praised the Hanoi railroad station. Comrade Dang Ngoc thao, the stationmaster, said that the responsibilities and missions of everyone there, from the janitors and ticket sellers to the technical cadres in the train operations office, are clearly stated. At the conclusion of a work shift (12 hours) each person is evaluated and awarded work points, which serve as the basis for paying monthly salaries. During recent months many passengers have noted that the Hanoi railroad station has truly undergone a transformation. The station's floor is clean, the ticket clerks give clear guidance, the people buying tickets form orderly lines, there is a place to park bicycles, and there is a window to sell tickets to people going out to the platform to greet or see off relatives. During the first quarter of 1983, of the 1,450 trains originating at the Hanoi railroad station only four left behind schedule because the station's cadres and workers failed to do their duty. In addition to the Hanoi railroad station, 16 stations have signed agreements with the railroad trade union to endeavor to become model stations.

Noteworthy progress is being made by the railroad stations, from Hanoi to Yen Bai, Hai Phong, and Da Nang; by the locomotive departments from Hanoi to the departments in the south; and by everyone from the train operators to the service personnel in the railroad stations, throughout the railroad sector. That mass movement has resulted in the surpassing of transportation plan norms during the past 6 months.

Those results point out a lesson: under the present conditions of the material bases, the railroad sector can still operate trains on schedule and safely, by reorganizing production and carrying out a mass movement.

Those are the two major measures for "advancing Vietnam's railroad sector so that it can be equal to its stature, and regaining the confidence of the Party, the state, and the people," as Minister Dong Si Nguyen said to the sector's cadres and workers at the beginning of this year.

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